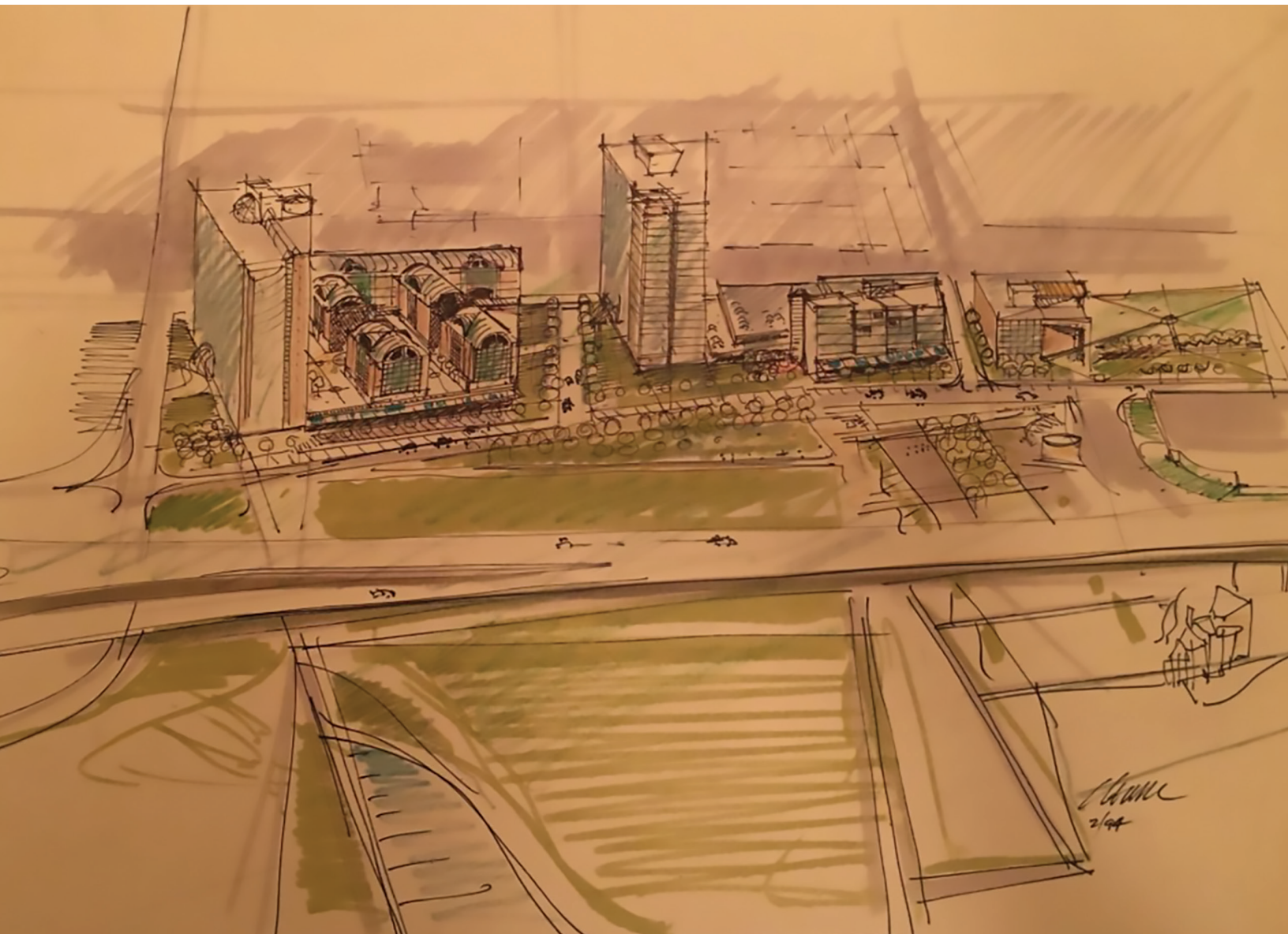


The Filson

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



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From the **Chair**

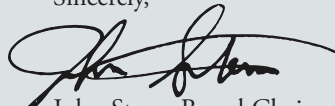
The word “history” comes from the Greek word “historia” which means inquiry or knowledge acquired by investigation. History is the study of the past, particularly how it relates to humans. Sadly we seem immune to understand how history warns us of our present day circumstances. In the Filson’s 2022-2024 strategic plan, we commit to “work with businesses, elected officials and community leaders to use the past to frame current issues and future solutions.” Indeed the Filson will continue to do all it can to help those decision-makers avoid repeating mistakes of the past.

Please allow me the opportunity to express my support for two upcoming special events. The first is the 28th Annual House Tour which will be taking place on September 25. Once again John David Myles will be providing you with detailed write-ups of the history, architecture and furnishings of the homes on the tour. Your ticket will enable you to tour these significant Louisville homes followed by a special cocktail party. Tickets are limited. The second is the 3rd Annual Filson Sporting Clay Classic which will be held at New Albany’s Sporting Club at the Farm

on October 28. Both of these are fund and fun-raisers. Go to filsonhistorical.org for further details.

Kudos to the Filson staff for all they do to make the Filson one of the most outstanding historical societies in the United States. They put in many hours above and beyond to bring you the many diverse programs, publications, and special events. They secure and process the additions to our extensive collections. They create the unique exhibits which make a visit to the Filson so special. They answer your questions via phone, email or in-person visits. Also, special thanks to the board for their guidance and expertise which better enables the staff to perform their functions in a most professional manner. Finally, thanks to you, the membership, which is the reason for the staff and board to exist in the first place. And if you’re not a member, do join us as we continue to collect, preserve and share the significant history and culture of Kentucky and the Ohio Valley.

Sincerely,



John Stern, Board Chair

Filson is re-launching *The First American West*

With the support of the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Filson is launching a new initiative to transcribe some of the most important documents in its collection. Over twenty years ago, the Filson joined with the Library of Congress and the University of Chicago to publish *The First American West*, an online collection of letters, financial records, sermons, books, maps, and objects from the Ohio Valley in the mid-1700s through 1820.

Now, the Filson is re-launching *The First American West* and expanding the original materials to include the voices of women, the enslaved, and Indigenous communities. A NEH-funded research team including Hailey Brangers, Marissa Coleman, and intern Jade Wigglesworth have identified new objects and documents and made high resolution rescans of originally selected materials.

The original *First American West* was a beloved resource for researchers across the world and teachers in classrooms across the United States. Now inaccessible because of old underlying technology, the Filson is excited to bring an expanded selection of documents

back to these audiences. This historical era is at the heart of the Filson’s world-class research collections and publications, and through this project the Filson can share its one-of-a-kind materials with thousands of history students and enthusiasts every year.

Filson members and supporters can be the first to access these manuscripts and help us complete this new digital exhibit! The Filson is using the transcription platform FromThePage to crowdsource transcriptions of the documents that will go into the new *First American West*. FromThePage lets anyone create an account and help archives across the world transcribe and annotate historical texts. If you can read 18th century handwriting or want to dive into political treatises from the era of the founding of Kentucky, help the Filson by typing as you read.

The project team is constantly uploading documents to the Filson’s FromThePage collection. So create an account and make sure to check back in frequently to see some of the earliest materials in the Filson’s stacks. Visit www.fromthepage.com/filson to join in the work of re-discovering early Kentucky!

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The Filson

is published quarterly by
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OUR MISSION:

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

COVER: Aerial drawing of the Louisville waterfront, especially Waterfront Park Place and adjacent city blocks, 1994. Part of a set of original drawings by architectural illustrator Dan Church. See full caption in Recent Acquisitions.

When I was in my late thirties, I had a hearing early one morning in federal court in Owensboro. After it ended, I drove over to Henderson, where my father was born and raised, and spent the rest of the day researching Clay family papers in the Henderson County courthouse. I found the 1806 will and inventory of my great-great-grandfather, Marston Clay. Marston came to Kentucky in 1787 from Halifax County, Virginia. He received a Revolutionary War grant of 2,231 acres between Paint and Silver Creeks in Madison County. He also had roughly 300 acres on Jessamine Creek near the Jessamine and Woodford County line, where he built a house and a grist mill and saw mill. Clay's Mill Road in Lexington led directly to his mill in pioneer times. Clearly a restless man, in 1800 he sold all of his central Kentucky holdings and moved with his second wife and children to Henderson, where he pioneered all over again. His estate inventory is a highly detailed description of how he worked and lived: tobacco, hogs, cattle, rudimentary furniture, farm and household implements, a Bible, saddles, yokes and thirteen enslaved human beings—identified only by first names with monetary values affixed to each.

One of his sons, my great-great grandfather James Williams Clay, was a tobacco merchant. He and his business partner and lawyer, Archibald Dixon, at one point purchased the mill owned by John James Audubon. Dixon, whose wife, Susan Peachy Bullitt was a Jefferson County Bullitt, rose to prominence as a United States senator. He was an enslaver strongly allied to the Bullitt family interests at Cottonwood, their Henderson County plantation. Although his pre-Civil War actions in the Senate were distinctly pro-slavery, he remained consistently loyal to the Union and was instrumental in keeping Kentucky from going into the Confederacy. Recently, the Filson accessioned the gift of a striking portrait of Dixon in old age.

At the death of my great-great grandfather in 1862, his Unionist son, my great-grandfather, James Franklin Clay, drew up a deed dividing his father's enslaved people among him and his siblings—again only with first names and statements of value. It is an ugly document. My great grandfather, who studied law under Archibald Dixon, went on to become a United States congressman during Reconstruction.

The stories were similar as I turned back to my Virginia ancestors. The first Clay landed in Charles City County in 1619. I have discovered legacies of service by my ancestors in Colonial wars and the Revolution, farming, milling, pioneering, loyalty to the republic and its laws, public service, and love of family. I am proud of these legacies, although my father's attitude was that this and a dime might buy me a cup of coffee.

Yet every one of my Clay ancestors, a seven generation line, enslaved human beings from 1619-1865. Marston published three unsettling, shocking advertisements offering rewards for the return of escaped slaves in the *Kentucky Gazette*. There is a deed of manumission he gave in return for twenty years of service and a purchase of freedom from a man he enslaved in Virginia and Kentucky. Marston's will split families by dividing enslaved Black people among his children, who were scattered across the Commonwealth. When I first saw these documents, I experienced shame and embarrassment. And sorrow. Deep, lasting, inescapable sorrow. Their stain is something I cannot erase. It becomes my stain. Even though I had nothing to do with it at the time, I have benefited from my ancestors' ownership of other human beings. Some would call it white privilege, a privilege which, as a man possessed with a good Presbyterian conscience, I choose to make personal reparational repair.

This review of my family's flawed history may be illustrative of what is going on in this

country. As a nation, we are now focused on the enslavement practices of many of our founders. Long-held and treasured beliefs are questioned. Monuments are legislatively toppled. State flags are recreated. College and university buildings, public schools and streets are renamed. There was no focus on the flaws of our founders when I was growing up. I can't say that I dwelled on it during the most-demanding years of my law practice. Since then I've revisited Washington's Mt. Vernon, Jefferson's Monticello, and Madison's Montpelier. I've read many biographies of our founders. I have learned so much from so many of our Filson scholars and lecturers. The lasting public accomplishments of these presidents and founders are still taught but are supplemented and tempered by understandings of their domestic and economic lives.

Our founders won a Revolution and created a Republic. Like my ancestors, and like you and me, they are imperfect earthen vessels. And this, to me, makes them more human, more accessible. They call out to us from the ages. Their actions and writings provide inspiration and guidance. They command admiration, but also understanding, forgiveness, and perhaps help. They needed Abraham Lincoln's leadership to do that which they demonstrably knew was right but could not bring themselves to do. They will always call for our help to address injustice. The Declaration of Independence and the United States Constitution are living, breathing documents, not rigid historical treatises incapable of amendment or application beyond a narrow, literalist, strict construction. While bound by the context of their times, our founders certainly must have anticipated that for our Republic to survive and flourish, these documents must be read, studied, and expansively applied to the times which would follow.

The Filson was established by ten privileged white men in 1884, all focused on pioneer times and family history in an

effort to move beyond the financial and emotional ravages caused by the Civil War. They created a marvelous institution—one which I am very proud to head. By the same token, they left much unsaid and much uncollected—in particular the records and stories of Indigenous Peoples, Jewish and other religious and ethnic groups, and of course African Americans. As you have undoubtedly noticed in our recent publications, programs, and collecting practices, the Filson has concentrated time and treasure in expanding our mission to include perspectives which have historically been

marginalized in Kentucky and the Ohio River Valley.

This does not mean that treasures like Archibald Dixon's portrait or the Bullitt Family papers are not highly prized and valued. They are. In the future, I'll gather up the few family papers I've assembled and offer them to the Filson. But in addition to these papers, what if we also had writings from the individuals my forebearers enslaved? What if we had objects they treasured or created? What if we could take their first names and through research and exploration find their descendants? Wouldn't this be a telling and

moving story? It would result in difficult but necessary conversations among descendants on either side. There is room at the Filson for materials, programs, and publications from all people who form this magnificent nation of flaws and imperfections, the beacon on the hill, the Republic which it is our duty as citizens to love, celebrate, defend, and protect.

I write this on the Fourth of July, 2022.
May God bless America.



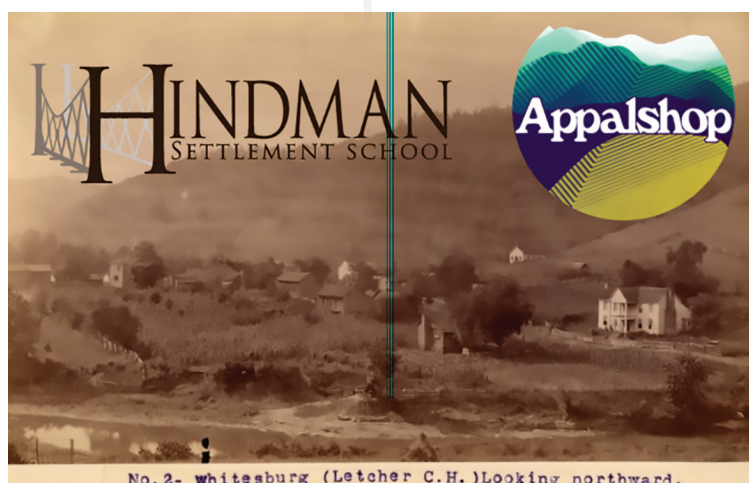
Richard H.C. Clay

President & CEO, The Filson Historical Society

Eastern Kentucky Flood Relief

Our hearts go out to the people of Eastern Kentucky impacted by the recent flooding disaster. In this unprecedented situation, the Filson Historical Society has committed to support two severely affected organizations that share the important mission of collecting and preserving Kentucky history and culture: Appalshop and the Hindman Settlement School. These contributions are supported by gifts designated by our membership to support the Eastern Kentucky relief effort. Additionally, Filson staff members have traveled to Eastern Kentucky to volunteer their time and expertise to assist with emergency conservation efforts at Appalshop and Hindman Settlement School.

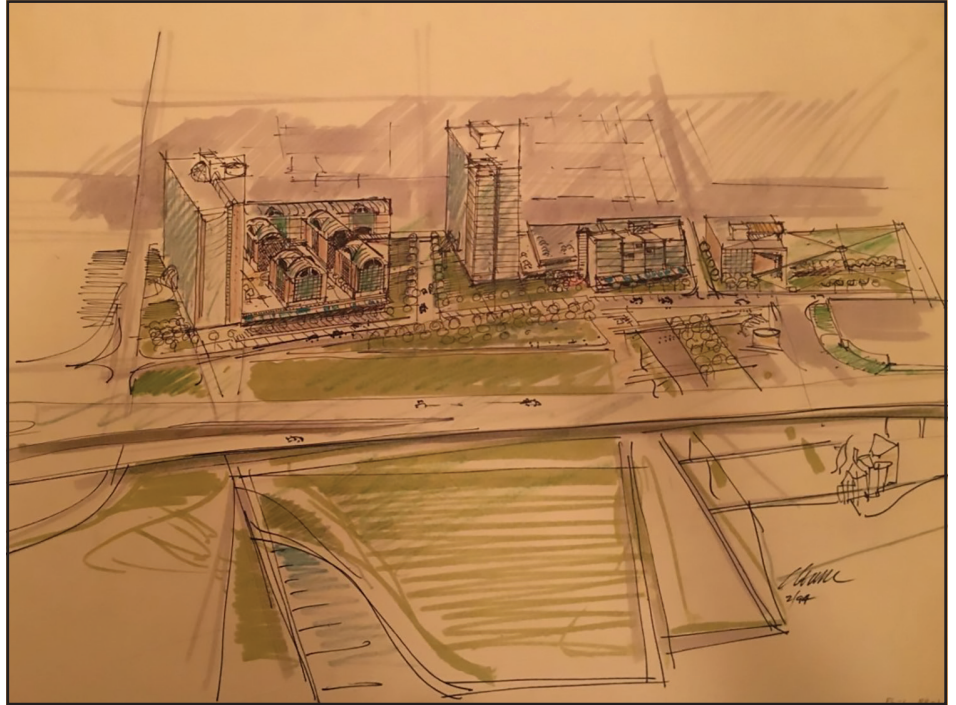
Thank you for standing with us and supporting our fellow Kentuckians and cultural organizations in need. If you would like to join us in supporting these two organizations, please visit their websites: Appalshop (www.appalshop.org) or Hindman Settlement School (www.hindman.org).



Recent Acquisitions

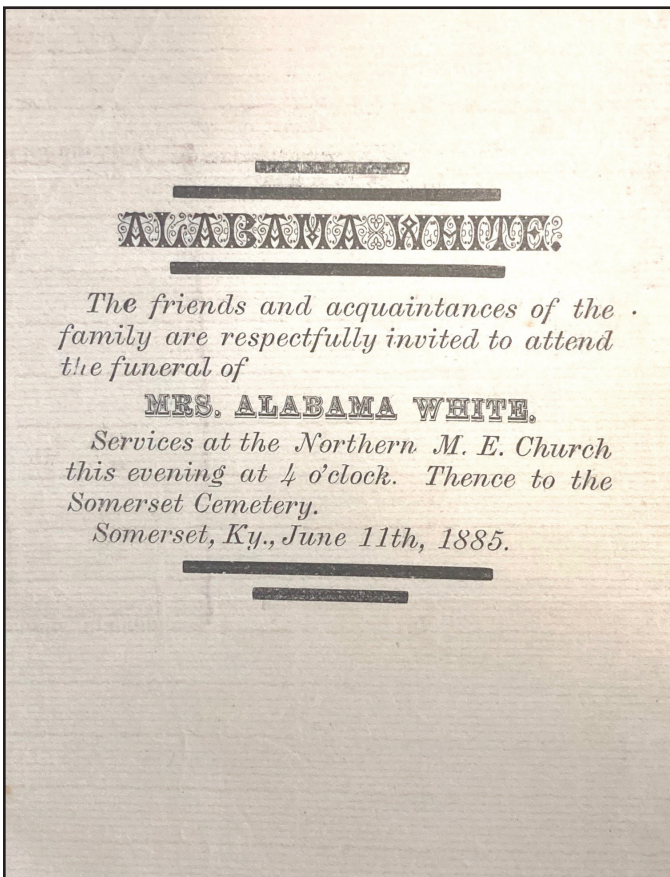
Waterfront Park Place Aerial

Aerial drawing of the Louisville waterfront, especially Waterfront Park Place and adjacent city blocks, 1994. Part of a set of original drawings by architectural illustrator Dan Church, who worked on civic and private development projects in the region for many years. (Donated by Dan Church)



Wait(e)-Beatty Family Papers Addition

This collection consists of correspondence, business records, land records, ephemera, newspaper clippings, and genealogy on the Wait (or Waite)-Beatty family. The bulk of the collection is the correspondence and records dating from about 1805-1905 which centers on the family and activities of Cyrenius Wait of Somerset, Pulaski County, Kentucky. Subjects covered are the enslavement of African Americans, the Mexican American War, the American Civil War, economic conditions and development in the Cumberland River Valley, land investment, and letters from family and associates in the Midwest and beyond. This item is an example of the ephemera; It was tradition for many years to print and issue invitations to funerals. When Alabama White of Somerset, Kentucky, passed away, her family invited people to attend her church service and burial on June 11, 1885. (Donated by Martha Jane Kepel-Cleveland)



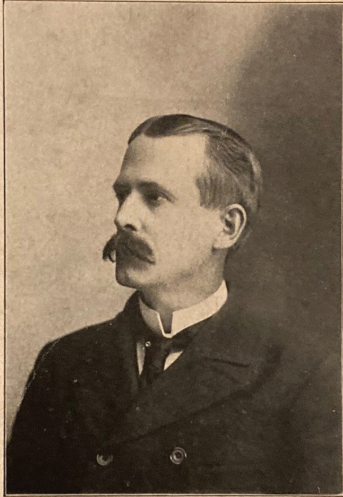


Graves Portraits

Portraits of William Jordan Graves (1805-1848) and Emily Henderson Graves (1810-1875) attributed to Theodore Sydney Moise (1808-1885). Graves was a U.S. Congressman from Kentucky who killed fellow legislator Jonathan Cilley at the Maryland dueling grounds on February 24, 1838, leading to federal anti-duel legislation. (Donated by William G. Coke, Jr.)

DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY ELECTION, JUNE 12th, 1899.

FOR ALDERMAN



T. M. GILMORE

IN FAVOR: The Initiative and Referendum. Municipal Control of Public Utilities. Short Hours of Labor as the one solution of Industrial Problems. Pensions for Policemen and Firemen totally disabled in discharge of duty, and for their wives and children if killed in the discharge of duty.

The Bradley & Gilbert Company, Print, Louisville, Kentucky.

Thomas M. Gilmore Family Scrapbook

Thomas M. Gilmore (1858-1921) was a Louisvillian and leader in the local, state, and national whiskey business. He edited the influential wine and liquor trade publication *Bonforts Wine and Spirit Circular* and founded the National Model License League. The scrapbook dates from the early 1900s and relates to his activities in support of the liquor industry, trying to fend off prohibition. Scattered throughout the scrapbook are mounted family photos and some other personal items, such as this 1899 political broadside touting Gilmore as a Louisville aldermanic candidate in the Democratic primary. (Donated by Edward Gilmore)

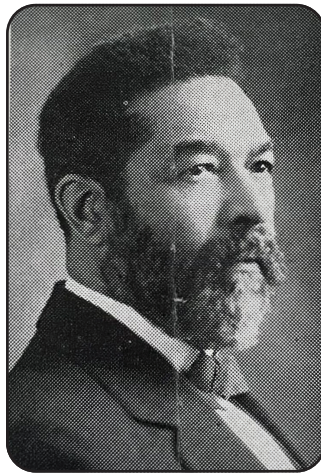
The Plymouth Congregational Church Records

BY LYNN POHL | COLLECTIONS CATALOGER

“Here at the center of tremendous urban upheaval is Plymouth Church and Plymouth Settlement.”

—Rev. Aurelius D. Pinckney, pastor of Plymouth Congregational Church, 1947–1966

When Rev. Pinckney wrote this in 1965, Louisville’s Russell neighborhood was facing the disruption of urban renewal projects and taking part in an eruption of civil rights actions. The Plymouth Congregational Church, founded in 1877, and the Plymouth Settlement House, established in 1917, were located next door to each other at the heart of the neighborhood’s struggles. A small collection of newly cataloged records at the Filson—including board minutes, correspondence, annual reports, publications, and information about church members—helps document these two historic institutions during a critical period of community development and change from the 1910s through the 1970s.



Rev. E. G. Harris, pastor of Plymouth Congregational Church, 1891–1936 [Plymouth Congregational Church records, folder 9].

from the 1920s includes reports on its “flats,” apartments owned by the church. Plymouth described itself as “a church which develops proper race pride and home ownership. 90% of the families now either own or are paying on little homes.”²

The church grew in stature and membership in the early twentieth century. The congregation consisted primarily of Black middle-class families and included teachers, physicians, lawyers, and postal workers. Among them were prominent activists, such as Dr. James Bond, Lyman T. Johnson, Carl R. Hines, and Hortense Houston Young. As documented by board minutes and Rev. Harris’s correspondence with Hattie Bishop Speed in the 1920s, the congregation raised money for the construction

of a new church at Seventeenth and West Chestnut. The Gothic-Revival style structure was completed in 1929.

The number of church members increased from 114 members in 1904 to over 400 in 1947, when Rev. Theodore S. Ledbetter was finishing his tenure as pastor following the death of Rev. Harris in 1936. Annual reports and publications offer information about church members. Also of note is a ledger used to register marriages, baptisms, and deaths among members from 1916 to 1948.

While Plymouth Congregational Church provided a prestigious place of worship for middle-class Black families, the Plymouth Settlement House was founded to serve as an extension of the church’s mission. Established in 1917 by Rev. Harris, the settlement house was outfitted with offices, classrooms, a kitchen, an auditorium, and a dormitory on the third floor for young Black women who came to Louisville to work. A settlement house report from 1938–1939 published images of its “decent rooms for working girls” and classes for cooking, sewing, basket making, and woodworking. In 1956, the settlement house incorporated

The Formative Years of the Church and Settlement House

An early and important figure in the history of the church and settlement house was Rev. Everett G. Harris, a graduate of Howard Divinity School. In 1891, he was sent to Plymouth Congregational Church by the National Council of Congregational Churches’ American Missionary Association (AMA). After the arrival of Rev. Harris in Louisville, the AMA provided funds for property and a small church building at the corner of Seventeenth and West Chestnut Streets, then on the edge of an expanding Black neighborhood. In 1893 Rev. Harris married Rachel Davis, a librarian at the Western Branch of the Louisville Free Public Library. Rev. Harris immersed himself in community as well as church work, joining the Interracial Commission and serving as board president for the Colored Orphans’ Home.¹

With Rev. Harris at its helm, the church made affordable housing available to neighborhood residents and promoted homeownership among its members. A ledger of church minutes and financial records

1 Benjamin D. Berry Jr., “The Plymouth Congregational Church of Louisville, Kentucky,” *Phylon*, 42 (1981), 224–32.

2 Church board minutes, folder 2, correspondence, folder 3, Plymouth Congregational Church (Louisville, Ky.) records [Mss. BA P738].



Vacation Bible School participants stand in front of the Plymouth Settlement House and the Plymouth Congregational Church, ca. 1930s [Plymouth Congregational Church records, folder 6].



Church picnic, ca. 1930s [Plymouth Congregational Church records, folder 6].

and established a board of directors separate from the church. Rev. Dr. Benjamin D. Berry, a pastor at Plymouth Congregational Church in the late 1960s, identified the settlement house as “one of the few of its kind in the nation, a black-owned and directed social welfare agency.”³

Community Action in the 1960s and 1970s

The 1960s brought new challenges. The persistence of blatant racial discrimination and the intensification of civil rights protests made some Plymouth church leaders question the extent to which they should try to cultivate interracial goodwill. In a 1966 sermon addressing the meaning of “black power,” Rev. Benjamin Berry spoke critically of “the corruptive influence of power without love,” but also of “love without power.” He explained the importance of recasting both the aim of interracial love and the battle for power into a fight for justice:

We have preached the subtle power of love from Negro pulpits for many years now.... But now, with the new laws for which we fought so hard being disregarded each day; now, with the last hurdle—housing—almost sure to stump us; now, with a new generation which has known little else but poverty and police brutality—now I feel this message has very little meaning.... the ultimatum issued in Watts I and II, in Harlem and Rochester and Chicago is not for interracial love, but for human justice.

He concluded that the congregation should not worry about losing some of its White support in striving for justice and should accept that “we will lose those who desire to paternalistically give us small advances, but ever keeping us just a bit below.”⁴

During his tenure from 1966 to 1968, Rev. Berry managed the church’s efforts to reverse a decade of decline in membership and to address tensions between the church and neighborhood residents. A church report noted in 1968, “There is at present much hostility and misinformation among local residents as regards the church for many reasons.” As part of an “Operation Breakthrough,” the church pledged to work with community groups, supply volunteers to the Plymouth Settlement House’s programs, and recruit church members from the immediate neighborhood.⁵

The Plymouth Settlement House expanded its services to the neighborhood in the late 1960s and 1970s, when Morris F. X. Jeff Jr. served as executive director. Settlement house minutes and publications describe a range of programs “offering the community a comprehensive package of social welfare services, covering the age continuum from children to senior citizens.” The settlement house provided a day care center, a senior citizens program, a clothing center at Beecher Terrace, family counseling services, and adult education classes. Publications outlined how day camps should teach children about “their homeland, Africa and its past and future. How we got to America and the great strides we have made. We should learn about the Black family, churches, and businesses.” A proposal for a Teen Exchange Center aimed to create “a common meeting place for exchanges between Black and white groups.” In 1973, the name of the settlement house was changed to the Plymouth Urban Center.⁶

One of the final items in the collection is a publication marking the centennial of Plymouth Congregational Church in 1977. The booklet features the church’s history and images of its buildings, pastors, and members through the years.⁷ The church remained at the same location until its closure a few years ago, and its surviving records are just one part of its long legacy.

3 “Report of the Activities of Plymouth Settlement House, 1938–1939,” folder 9, Plymouth Congregational Church records; Plymouth Complex Individual Landmark Draft Designation Report, <https://louisvilleky.gov/document/pds20-landmark-0002plymouthdraftdesignationreportpdf>; Berry, “The Plymouth Congregational Church of Louisville, Kentucky.”

4 B. D. Berry, “To Move Mountains,” 10 July 1966, folder 7, Plymouth Congregational Church records.

5 “Operation Breakthrough,” 1968, folder 8, Plymouth Congregational Church records.

6 Settlement house board minutes, folder 10, “Relevance for the 70’s,” folder 9, Plymouth Congregational Church records.

7 Plymouth Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, “Our Centennial Year,” 1977, folder 6, Plymouth Congregational Church records.

Olde England on the Ohio: Louisville's Tudor Revival

Exhibit Opens November 4

Louisville's residents and visitors often note the city's proliferation of Tudor Revival architecture. From homes to businesses, churches to charities, Louisville has retained an impressive Tudor Revival collection, including several neighborhoods where it is the dominant style.

The Filson Historical Society is excited to open *Olde England on the Ohio: Louisville's Tudor Revival* on November 4, 2022. The exhibit uses Louisville as a microcosm of a larger national movement that peaked in the 1920s and early 1930s. Tudor Revival not only manifested through architecture, but also in consumer products and popular culture. This exhibit, guest curated by Daniel Gifford, Ph.D., shows the range of ways American looked to recreate a near-mythic "Merrie Olde England" in the early twentieth century.

Importantly, it was no accident that this turn towards an imaginary English past coincided with a wave of Eastern European immigrants, a massive African-American migration to northern cities, and the refinement of continued systems of racial, religious, and ethnic injustice. Many explicitly saw Tudor Revival as a way of claiming and elevating Anglo-Saxon heritage for a select few.

But in Louisville these attempts ultimately failed. *Olde England on the Ohio* demonstrates how diverse groups across the city used Tudor Revival to make their own assertions about belonging and participation in American culture. The objects, images, and artifacts we have gathered ultimately suggest that Tudor Revival succeeded as a movement built from the ground up, not the top down. We hope you will visit us to explore this eye-opening and entertaining exhibit.



Top: Postcard featuring Kosair Charities Sam Swope Center (formerly Kosair Crippled Children's Hospital) ca. 1926.

Bottom: Home of James T. Taylor, ca. 1930.

THRUSTON LEGACY CIRCLE

Make a Legacy Gift

A legacy gift is a simple way to make an impact by preserving our history and educating future generations. Whether you choose to designate the Filson as a beneficiary on a retirement plan, leave a gift in your will or living trust, or another form of legacy giving; your investment in the Filson ensures that the history and culture of Kentucky, Southern Indiana, and the Ohio Valley will be preserved and shared for years to come. By making a legacy gift, you become a part of the Thruston Legacy Circle, a group of civic-minded leaders that creates a lasting impact on our community.



Image Credit: Clinton Spaulding, StoryPoint Prospect

*The Filson
Historical Society*

Join the Circle!

If you have or are considering leaving a legacy gift for the benefit of the Filson Historical Society, please contact us today. We look forward to welcoming you to the Thruston Legacy Circle. Please contact Brenna Cundiff, Director of Development, at brenna@filsonhistorical.org or (502) 634-7108 to start planning your legacy gift today.

Summer Interns

Autumn Williams

Autumn is a rising senior at Central High School and a student of Central's Law and Government Magnet Program. She enjoys Black history, the history of America's founding, and Military history!

This summer, Autumn worked as an Education + Development Assistant through KentuckianaWorks' SummerWorks Program! She worked on programming, education, and outreach projects with Community Engagement Specialist, Emma Bryan. Autumn helped prepare and facilitate our Cultural Pass Youth programming, assisted with Filson lectures and workshops, researched and produced engaging content for social media, and worked on successful record keeping and storage organization projects.

It was a pleasure to get to know Autumn this summer!



Max Brown, AIA Intern

I am Max Brown, a recent MA graduate from the University of Kentucky, and I have spent the summer interning at the Filson Historical Society as an AIA-CKC fellow. In this position I have been working with Associate Curator Jana Meyer in processing and cataloguing architectural documents relating to the Ohio Valley. Previously my work as a historian has been strictly research based, and I have found the opportunity to work in archives from the side of the archivist very rewarding. Not only does this work provide me a learning experience for the effort that is put into archiving materials, but the ability to work with these documents hands-on has given me many opportunities to learn new things about the history of my home city of Louisville.

I have been primarily focusing my efforts on the Filson's Jasper Ward collection, processing architectural plans and drawings from the mid-to-late 20th century by Ward and his firm. His works are dotted all across the Ohio Valley region, and he has left a lasting impact on Louisville's urban landscape in the form of houses, businesses, garages, and bridges alike. His involvement with Louisville's Urban Renewal efforts in the 1970s have also led to me towards researching Renewal projects along Louisville's riverfront and examining the challenges and failures that accompanied the movement's successes. I will be discussing my findings at the Filson on September 20th, in an upcoming talk about the trials and tribulations of "Shippingport Square."



Dorian Cleveland

My name is Dorian Cleveland, and I am a rising senior at the University of Kentucky. My specific project focuses on Jerry Abramson, who is known as Louisville's first Jewish mayor, and the city's longest standing Kentucky Lt. Governor, and Deputy Assistant to the President and Director of Intergovernmental Affairs for President Barak Obama. By drawing from the Abramson Family Papers and Photograph Collections, I am constructing an online exhibit which will present the life, family, and extensive political career of Jerry Abramson.

Partaking in this endeavor has been a wonderful experience, as it has allowed me to become more knowledgeable of the process of curating and creating exhibits. One of my favorite parts about the internship was being able to handle primary sources and determine how they would fit into the potential exhibit. Meeting other interns who are working on summer projects has also been enriching. My future goal is to use the experience I have gained from this internship to become a museum curator.

Overall, interning at the Filson these past two summers has greatly impacted me, and has increased my love for history, archival research, and library sciences.

Isaac Bates

My name is Isaac Bates, and I am a senior archaeology major at the University of Evansville. I currently plan to pursue a career as an archivist or collections manager. During my summer internship at the Filson Historical Society, I have received valuable experience processing and cataloguing an archival collection. Specifically, I have been working with documents that belonged to or were associated with Colonel Charles H. Morrow, a highly distinguished Army officer originally from Kentucky (and brother of Kentucky Governor, Edwin P. Morrow). Colonel Morrow's decades-long military career included service in the Spanish-American War, the Philippine-American War, and the Russian Civil War in addition to his later role as the commandant of the regular army post at Fort Niagara, N.Y. Colonel Morrow's service in the Russian Civil War aligns perfectly with my interest in early 20th century military conflicts.

My tasks have involved sorting related documents into folders, indexing and describing their contents, and creating a finding aid for researchers. It has been very rewarding to acquire an understanding of each step of the archival process and how to overcome the challenges that can accompany them. Additionally, I have enjoyed working with such an intriguing collection and learning about the life of a remarkable man. I am grateful for this opportunity, and I look forward to applying the knowledge that I have gained from this internship to my future studies and career.



Alanna Parham

I am a recent graduate from the University of Louisville with a Bachelor of Arts in arts administration and a current student at IUPUI studying archive management and will be pursuing my Master of Arts in museum studies soon. I have had the pleasure of participating in the Special Collections internship coordinated by the Filson for the Fall 2021 semester as well as the year 2022 under the leadership of Heather Potter and Maureen Lane. During my current internship, I am responsible for cleaning collection records in PastPerfect for the Photograph, Print, and Museum collections which will lead to helping make information more accessible to the public. This project has been very tedious and involved relying on resources and steps that I have learned throughout my time here at the Filson. I have the responsibility of correcting the accession numbers of cataloged items in photographs, prints, and museums within our museum database PastPerfect, editing and updating catalog records in PastPerfect in order to reflect donor information and basic information about the item(s), and editing or creating authority files for artists and photographers of items, photographs, and prints that are both cataloged in PastPerfect and under reconciliation.

Through my internships at the Filson, I have learned so much about maintaining a collection of works and the steps necessary to successfully create an exhibit and catalog items on the front and back end. My overall goal is to open my own museum in a hospital to



showcase works done by those going through art therapy, and later become an art therapist myself. I believe in the power of art to produce skills outside of the art world, build relationships between body and mind, and navigate the medical field's complex realities. Ultimately, I hope to create artmaking and exhibition facilities that can provide opportunities for learning, and healing, improving both mental and physical health. Thanks to my amazing colleagues and coworkers that I have met throughout this journey, I have realized what I love, the steps it will take to reach my goals, and what I want to do as a career. The Filson plays a massive part in my development in the archive and museum world. Though the path to my goal will be long, I know that I can successfully further my career as an archivist until I get there.



Rebecca Coffield

I am a Master's of Anthropology student at the University of Louisville with a focus in archaeology. I was delighted to accept a position as an intern at the Filson Historical Society for the Summer of 2022. I've always had a passion for piecing together puzzles of past societies to understand and appreciate the vast spectrum of cultural practices among diverse populations. When presented with the opportunity to assist Native American Collections Specialist Kelly Hyberger with one of the Filson's Indigenous collections, it felt like the perfect fit. The goals for my summer internship project are to inventory, catalog, and rehouse a collection of Indigenous artifacts donated to the Filson in 1981 by Edward Rutledge Lilly. Lilly was an amateur archaeologist who collected stone tools and other associated objects primarily in Jefferson County and southern Indiana. Lilly created both a ledger and a map of when and where these items were collected, giving me the opportunity to create robust cataloging data. With my background of archaeological knowledge, I intend to put these items into their respective time periods, determine potential uses, and help to identify cultural affiliation for repatriation purposes. My time at the Filson will help to broaden my knowledge of current curatorial and inventory practices, which will undoubtedly extend into prospective employment.

Tuesday, November 29, 6:00–7:00 p.m. (EST) | Brown Theatre, 315 W Broadway, Louisville, KY 40202
Free for members, \$27.20 for non-members (fees included)

This is a hybrid in-person/virtual lecture. Tickets must be purchased at KentuckyPerformingArts.org

Watergate: A New History Garrett M. Graff

From the *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Only Plane in the Sky*, comes the first definitive narrative history of Watergate—“the best and fullest account of the crisis, one unlikely to be surpassed anytime soon” (*Kirkus Reviews*, starred review)—exploring the full scope of the scandal through the politicians, investigators, journalists, and informants who made it the most influential political event of the modern era.

In the early hours of June 17, 1972, a security guard named Frank Wills enters six words into the log book of the Watergate office complex that will change the course of history: *1:47 AM Found tape on doors; call police.*

The subsequent arrests of five men seeking to bug and burgle the Democratic National Committee offices—three of them Cuban exiles, two of them former intelligence operatives—quickly unravels a web of scandal that ultimately ends a presidency and forever alters views of moral authority and leadership. Watergate, as the event is called, becomes a shorthand for corruption, deceit, and unanswered questions.

Now, award-winning journalist and bestselling author Garrett M. Graff explores the full scope of this unprecedented moment from start to finish, in the first comprehensive, single-volume account in decades.

The story begins in 1971, with the publication of thousands of military and government documents known as the Pentagon Papers, which reveal dishonesty about the decades-long American presence in Vietnam and spark public outrage. Furious that the leak might expose his administration’s own duplicity during a crucial reelection season, President Richard M. Nixon gathers his closest advisors and gives them implicit instructions: Win by any means necessary.

Within a few months, an unsteady line of political dominoes are positioned, from the creation of a series of covert operations code-named GEMSTONE to campaign-trail dirty tricks, possible hostage situations, and questionable fundraising efforts—much of it caught on the White House’s own taping system. One by one they fall, until the thwarted June burglary attracts

Watergate A New History



Garrett M. Graff

New York Times bestselling author of *The Only Plane in the Sky*

the attention of intrepid journalists, congressional investigators, and embattled intelligence officers, one of whom will spend decades concealing his identity behind the alias “Deep Throat.” As each faction slowly begins to uncover the truth, a conspiracy deeper and more corrupt than anyone thought possible emerges, and the nation is thrown into a state of crisis as its government—and its leader—unravels.

Using newly public documents, transcripts, and revelations, Graff recounts every twist with remarkable detail and page-turning drama, bringing readers into the backrooms of Washington, chaotic daily newsrooms, crowded Senate hearings,

and even the Oval Office itself during one of the darkest chapters in American history.

Grippingly told and meticulously researched, *Watergate* is the defining account of the moment that has haunted our nation’s past—and still holds the power to shape its present and future.

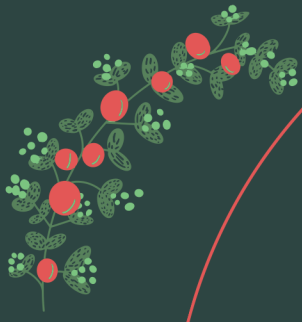


Garrett M. Graff, a distinguished journalist and bestselling historian, has spent more than a dozen years covering politics, technology, and national security. Today, he serves as the director of cyber initiatives for The Aspen Institute and is a contributor to *Wired*, CNN, and *Politico*. He’s written for publications from *Esquire* to *Rolling Stone* to *The New York Times*, and edited two of Washington’s most prestigious magazines, *Washingtonian* and *Politico*. Graff is the author of multiple books, including *The Threat Matrix*, the national bestseller *Raven Rock*, and the *New York Times* bestseller *The Only Plane in the Sky*.

Praise for *Watergate: A New History*

“Dazzling...A lively writer, Graff explores the dramatic scope of the Watergate saga through its participants — politicians, investigators, journalists, whistle-blowers and, at center stage, Nixon himself.”

—Douglas Brinkley, *The New York Times Book Review*



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With David G. McCullough's death at 89 on August 7, 2022, America lost one of our finest narrative historians. McCullough won Pulitzer Prizes for his superb biographies of Harry Truman and John Adams. He received National Book Awards for *The Path Between the Seas*, a vivid history of the Panama Canal, and for *Mornings on Horseback*, an unforgettable portrait of young Theodore Roosevelt. His other acclaimed books ranged widely, from the Brooklyn Bridge, to the Wright Brothers, to the year 1776. He also brought history home through television and film. He narrated Ken Burns' remarkable series on the Civil War and was the voice of "The American Experience" on PBS. In 2006, President George W. Bush honored McCullough with the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

The Filson was privileged in 1995 and again in 2001 to have McCullough speak at our flagship Gertrude Polk Brown Lecture Series. McCullough excelled at sharing compelling and important stories of our nation's history, and we will miss him greatly.

In Memorial David G. McCullough by Orme Wilson



The Filson Remembers Volunteer Extraordinaire, Bill Carner (1947–2022)

Aaron Rosenblum, former Associate Curator of Collections

I'm certain I first knew Bill as the infamous "photo wrangler" of the University of Louisville photo archives at Ekstrom Library, in the early 2000s. I worked one floor above in Media Services, for his long-time colleague and friend David Horvath, and made frequent trips down to the basement to pick through the discarded print box (because in those days photo requests were still largely filled by physical prints rather than digital files). Later, I came to know him through the stories of other folks present at the origins of Louisville's punk rock scene, and likely through photos of that time that I didn't know then were his.

I had the pleasure of getting to know Bill much better when the Filson hired him as a consultant on the installation of the Owsley Brown II History Center digitization lab, where he helped develop and then build the oversize photo digitization system. Once the project was complete and the lab up and running, Bill—amazingly, generously—just kind of kept showing up. He volunteered to digitize materials in the lab, which was really no surprise given Bill's love for photography. His enthusiasm for Louisville's past and present, and for "history" ranging from the 19th century to his own lifetime, was infectious. He was continually positive, happy to be there, to be viewing and preserving and considering Louisville's and Kentucky's visual culture.

At the time I departed the Filson, Bill was a regular presence. He was thinking about adding another volume (or volumes?) to his *Louisville Then and Now*. Later, having left Louisville, I was thrilled to see (from afar) images of his solo photo shows in the gallery space at Surface Noise, a record and book store and art gallery blocks from his house and a perfect venue for his images of performers legendary and sub-underground. I had considered remotely purchasing a print of a photo from one of the Surface Noise shows—English singer-songwriter and guitarist Richard Thompson ducking under the bar at what was (at one point or another) Uncle Pleasant's, on Preston St., in 1983. I got in touch with him about it last December, but some other interest or distraction or holiday came along and I let it slip through

the cracks. I wish I had ordered a print of the photo, to be sure, but I also wish I had had the chance to chat with Bill about it, about music and photography and Louisville, one more time.

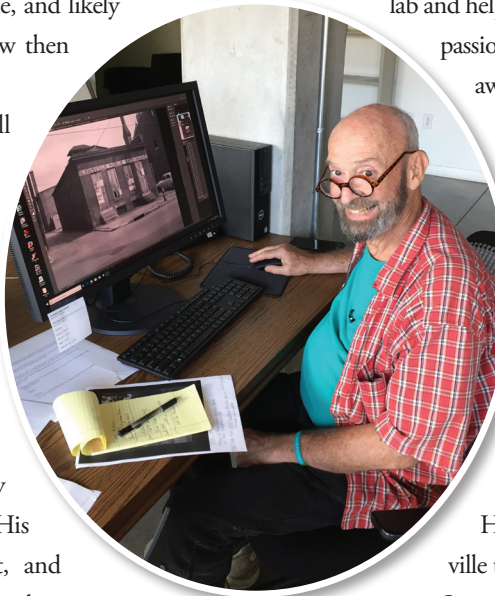
Heather Potter, Curator of Photography and Prints

I first met Bill, known as the Photo Wrangler, when he helped the Filson establish our digitization lab. After he gave me a tutorial on the new equipment, I asked him if he would be interested in continuing to use the lab and help me as a volunteer. He immediately said yes. Bill's passion was photography, and you couldn't keep him away from a scanner or a camera. Bill spent the next several years (COVID aside) digitizing and color correcting our Ivey Watkins Cousins Negatives Collection, which consists of over 1500 negatives documenting street scenes of Louisville. Bill often reminisced about how the images reminded him of his *Louisville Then and Now* book. The Cousins negatives ended up being so rich that we decided to feature them in the 2019 Louisville PhotoBiennial. Bill and volunteer Carole Crites co-curated the exhibit with me. He even took our "now" photos to recreate a Louisville then and now exhibit. The three of us had a blast! Soon my husband and I became friends with Bill

and his partner Mary outside of his volunteering at the Filson. We enjoyed the famous Bonnycastle Sunday night chicken dinners on numerous occasions with them and their friends. One of the best memories I have is a bourbon tasting we did together. The bourbon was good, but the conversations and laughs were better. Bill was a photographer, a volunteer, and a friend. He will be greatly missed, but his spirit and charisma will never be forgotten at the Filson.

Danielle Spalenka, Digital Initiatives & Preservation Archivist

Bill was an amazing photographer and helped get our digital lab up and running. I will miss his pleasant demeanor, his humor, and his delightful stories of his fun and fascinating life and career. We sure were so lucky to have him as an amazing volunteer, assisting on digital reproduction orders for oversized materials. It's hard to believe he's gone, and Tuesdays at 11am—his normal time to come in—just won't be the same.



Emma Bryan



Jamie Evans: Tell us your journey to the Filson and what you do here.

Emma Bryan: I grew up in Frankfort, Kentucky, and I was homeschooled, so we always did things out in the community. I got a job when I was 14 years old at the Kentucky Historical Society. I got to work with Greg Hardison in the historical interpretation department on a play about a young girl named Virginia Cary Hudson. We created a short, 15-minute play of her life and her diaries, and I got to dress up in period attire. It was extremely fun and a formative moment for me. I went to Bellarmine University and studied history and philosophy with the intent to go to law school. As I was studying for the LSAT, I thought, “I don’t want to do this. This is not what I’m passionate about. I really want to work in a museum.” So, I talked to Greg and asked, “How do I do this? What do I do?” He encouraged me to get an internship and get some more experience, so I interned at the Kentucky Derby Museum. It changed my career trajectory and I went to the University of Louisville to get my master’s degree in Public History. After I graduated in 2019, I started at the Filson as the front desk attendant and currently work as the Community Engagement Specialist. I help with our volunteer program, our membership and development department, our social media, and our community outreach as well.

JE: What would you say is the most fulfilling part of your job?

EB: I would say it is getting to see people out in the community. For instance, I love running into Elmer Lucille Allen, she’s

everywhere around town. I love getting to build relationships with our members, community partners, and our community history fellows. I think it is really fulfilling to see those relationships form, not just with the Filson, but with all the cultural institutions here in town.

JE: Tell us a little bit about your interests outside the Filson.

EB: I like reading. I read a lot of murder mystery and romance books. One of my guilty pleasures is reality TV. That’s something that I use to unwind after work, but I really love going on hiking trips. I haven’t been on one in a while because it’s been so hot here in Kentucky, but my partner, Justin and I, really love going out and exploring different state parks and national parks when we have the opportunity to do so. I also love hanging out with my dog, Bashful, and my two cats, MJ and Junie.

JE: What was your favorite hike in Kentucky and then outside of Kentucky?

EB: We had the opportunity to go to Mammoth Cave last year and I had never been, even though I’m a lifelong Kentuckian. I really love the hikes outside of the cave. We did the cave tour as well, but the hikes around in the national park were really beautiful. I also really love Red River Gorge. We try to go there often. Outside of Kentucky, we went to Shenandoah National Park recently and that was my favorite trip. It is such a beautiful place and we got to go in the fall, so we got to see the leaves changing and all the colors.

JE: What is something that you want our membership to know about the Filson?

EB: I want them to know about all the resources that we have available here. I think our most valuable resource is the people that we have here. Each of the folks here, have their own unique research interests, specialties, strengths, and they really can be such a resource for folks who are wanting to research their family history, or working on a research project, or are wanting to learn more about their cultural heritage.

JE: What do you see for the future of the Filson?

EB: I really want us to continue collaborating with folks at cultural institutions locally and across the country. We recently became a partner in a coalition called History Made By Us, a group of historic institutions across the United States, whose mission is “collaboration over competition.” All of us, all of the cultural institutions shouldn’t have to compete for resources or membership. We all have unique strengths and I think we’ve made avenues to really work together. One of the quotes that guides my work is “a rising tide lifts all boats.” And so, we can all work with this forward momentum and help each other.

The Filsonians

May–July 2022



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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