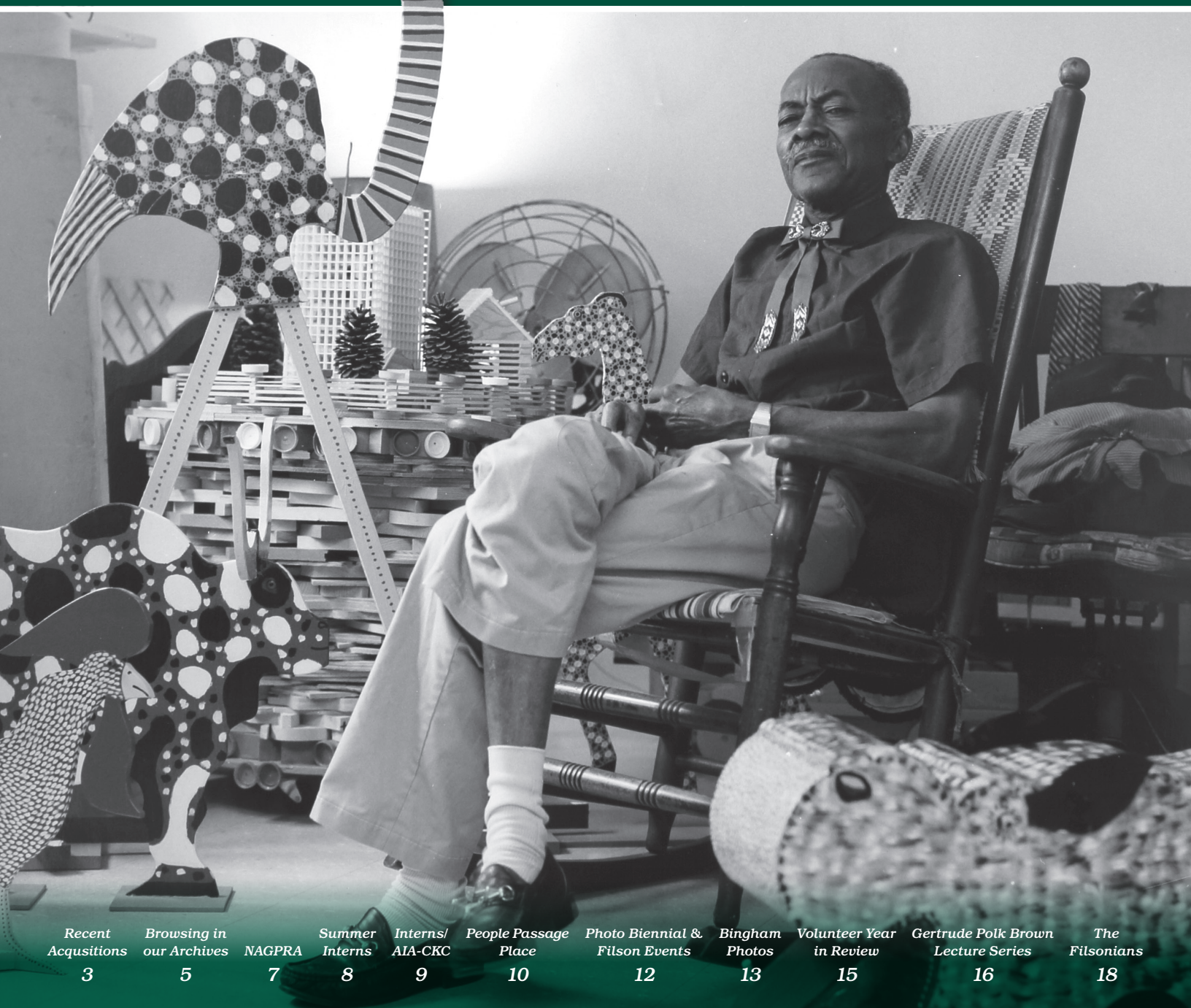


The Filson

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 President

Dear Filsonians,

As we anticipate the 140th anniversary of the Filson's founding on May 15, 1884, and a national election on Tuesday, November 5, 2024, please consider these national events of 140 years ago (with thanks to Wikipedia).

- **August 5:** *The cornerstone for the Statue of Liberty is laid on Bedloe's Island in New York Harbor.*
- **November 4:** *United States presidential election: Democratic Governor of New York Grover Cleveland defeats Republican James G. Blaine in a very close contest, to win the first of his non-consecutive terms.*
- **December 6:** *The Washington Monument is completed in Washington, D.C., becoming the tallest structure in the world at this date.*
- **December 10:** *Mark Twain's Adventures of Huckleberry Finn is first published, in London.*

These four events of 1884 remind us, almost one hundred and forty years later:

We are a nation of emigrants—a melting pot, a shining city on a hill—whether our ancestors go back ten generations or whether we just arrived.

We live in a Democratic Republic that rests on the principles of one person, one vote and free, open, and fair elections.

Our nation rests on the shoulders of great men and women who deserve our study, understanding, respect, and yes—reverence.

Alenda lux ubi orta libertas. In liberty let there be learning. In learning let there be liberty. When Democracy is treasured and protected, learning and creative genius flourish. Learning and creative genius nurture and replenish our Democracy. Just ask Huck and Jim.

My hope for the Filson's 140th Anniversary year is that it will be an extended, serious, celebratory history and civics seminar on what it means to be an American.

Sincerely,



Richard H.C. Clay

President & CEO, The Filson Historical Society

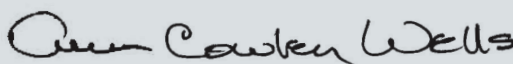
From the Chair

As 2023 winds down, I'd like to draw attention to the final events of the year. This December, the Filson is pleased to offer *David A. Jones, Always Moving Forward: A Memoir of Friends, Family, and Building Humana* on December 7 with David A. Jones, Jr. and Nat Irvin, II. *Always Moving Forward* is the autobiography of David A. Jones, and the speakers will discuss his unparalleled capacity to assess and make decisions with great rapidity. On December 17, we invite you to join us for A Holiday Jazz Party featuring the Tri-Tones and special guest, Owsley Brown III. As a reminder, the Filson Historical Society will be closed to the public December 22, 2023 through January 2, 2024.

The Board and Staff are so excited to celebrate the Filson's 140th Anniversary in 2024! From what the staff has shown us, we are looking at a year of exciting events, starting in January with the "Back to the Eighties" series. Dr. Daniel Gifford will present two lectures, "The Hidden 1980s: Pop Culture in the

Reagan Era" on January 25, followed by "The Hidden 1980s: Pop Music in the Reagan Era" on February 8. The series concludes with the "Back to the Eighties" party at the Filson on February 23! More information and tickets for these can be found on the Filson's website. Stay tuned for more information about the upcoming 140th Anniversary events as they unfold.

On behalf of the Board and Staff at the Filson, I'd like to thank you for supporting this organization and our mission in 2023. Through your membership and support of the Annual Fund, our partnerships with other cultural organizations, and attendance at our events (both virtually and in person), you have helped us collect, preserve, and share the stories of our region both locally and nationally. We cannot do what we do without your support. Thank you, and we look forward to what 2024 brings.



Ann Wells, Board Chair

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1310 S. 3rd St.
Louisville, KY 40208
We welcome your feedback
and story ideas.
Phone: (502) 635-5083
www.filsonhistorical.org
info@filsonhistorical.org

OUR MISSION:

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

Recent Acquisitions



Scott Scarboro by Geoffrey Carr



Ed Hamilton by Geoffrey Carr



Mary Anne Currier by Geoffrey Carr

Geoffery Carr's Artist Series photograph collection is compiled of 65 of his fine art black and white photographs documenting Ohio Valley artists. Carr, a commercial photographer in Louisville, got his first job taking pictures of art more than 30 years ago and during his time shooting commissioned art photos also took studio portraits of the artists. The artists portrayed in this collection include G.C. Coxe, Marvin Finn, Mary Ann Currier, Julius Friedman, Ed Hamilton, William Duffy, Chuck Swanson, Jacque Parsley, Patrick Donnelly, Al Gorman, and Filson's own Scott Scarboro. Purchase of Filson Historic Acquisitions Fund.



Reed's uniform, cap, and other materials, circa 1940s.

Selection of items reflecting the **nursing career of Allie Ruth Carey Reed** who trained and worked as a U.S. Nurse Cadet at Lexington's Good Samaritan Hospital during and after World War II. The collection includes uniforms, a cape, patches, pins, training guides, and reunion materials. Ms. Reed also made a financial contribution to support cataloging, housing, and preservation of these items. Donated by Allie Ruth Carey Reed.



Carriage house elevations by Louisville architect John Bacon Hutchings, 1911.

A set of **architectural drawings for buildings on the William Shallcross Speed estate, Kanawha** in the Cherokee Park neighborhood. The estate's carriage house, since renovated into a residence, was designed by John Bacon Hutchings (1857–1916), and features a “unique blend of the Romanesque, Byzantine, Tudor, Colonial Revival and Arts & Crafts styles.” Donated by the Blythe family.



Highlights from the Patty Thum Museum collection.



Chromolithograph of Pear Blossoms by Patty Thum, ca. 1895

The **Miller-Doll-Thum Collections** include previously unseen portrait and landscape paintings, five floral paintings by Louisville artist Patty Thum, along with more than one hundred drawings, providing new insight into Thum's studio practice and career development. Also part of the collection are the Miller-Doll-Thum family photographs and Patty Thum print collection, 1880–1930s, which builds upon existing family photographs and adds several early images and prints by Thum. The manuscript portion of the collection centers on the farm journals and ledgers of Charles B. Doll, dating 1882–1893. Doll married Julia Miller, a cousin of Patty Thum. They owned farms in western Jefferson County and their journals record the operation of and everyday life on a farm during this period. Also included are letters discussing family and activities related to the Doll, Miller, Fox, and Perry families dating from the late 19th to mid-20th centuries. The collection was a partial purchase of the Historical Acquisitions Fund and partial donation from anonymous donors.



Sampling of books donated and purchased in 2023.



Quilt pattern, circa mid-19th century.

The library receives and purchases a bounty of books relevant to Ohio Valley History; this is a small sampling of what has come in recently: ***Bound for Canaan: the Underground Railroad and the War for the Soul of America*** by Fergus M. Bordewich, donated by David Ringo. ***Lexington: the Extraordinary Life and Turbulent Times of America's Legendary Racehorse***, donated by the author, Kim Wickens. ***Bluegrass Paradise: Royal Spring and the Birth of Georgetown, Kentucky***, donated by the author, Gary O'Dell. ***The Shakers: a Bibliography***, compiled by Randall L. Ericson, purchase of Filson Historic Acquisitions Fund. ***Louisville Classics: the Architecture of Hugh Lloyd Nevin and Frederic Lindley Morgan***, donated by the author, John David Myles.

The **Duvall-Oldham family papers** document, business, land, and family information for Jefferson County, Kentucky, and the Ohio Valley, dating from the late 18th century to the mid-20th century. Of note is the 1877 diary of Claudius Duvall, Jr. (1849–1939). Donated by Naniene Murphy.

A Century of Stitching Community

The Baer Fabrics Collection

By Hayley Salo

The Filson Historical Society is pleased to introduce the newly acquired and cataloged Baer Fabrics Collection. Baer Fabrics (formerly A. Baer Co.) was a Jewish family-owned fabric and sewing supply store headquartered in downtown Louisville, Kentucky, with a long-term location in Evansville, Indiana. As a beloved community center for sewers and crafters, Baer Fabrics hosted classes, teen summer camps, and fashion shows and supported local quilting competitions, charity organizations, and the arts. It closed in 2008 after 103 years of operation.

Records and photographs in the Baer Fabrics Collection span the years 1950–2008, with the bulk of the materials dating from 1986–2008. Business and financial papers document Baer Fabrics’ marketing strategies, company development, position in the textile industry, employee training, customer relationships, and eventual closure. Newsletters, community event and

charity materials, and news articles speak to the active role Baer Fabrics played in the local and regional sewing scene and broader communities.

A. Baer Co. was founded in 1905 by Nathan Baer (1878–1985), a Russian immigrant working in the men’s tailoring industry as a cutter in a suit factory. His original store specialized in men’s tailoring and dry-cleaning supplies. The extensive inventory of the later Baer Fabrics began to develop after Nathan’s son Abraham (1907–1982) joined the business in the 1930s. Abraham expanded the business model to encompass “women’s fabrics, costuming materials, dance wear and trims,” all available in-store or by mail order. Abraham and his wife, company vice president Ida Baer (1908–1978), were devoted to serving the sewing community. In a letter submitted to Baer Fabrics’ 100-year anniversary memory contest, one customer recounts how Abraham directed her,

by memory, to a dusty box in the basement with the exact lace she needed to finish a project—a lace that couldn’t be found at any other store in Kentucky or elsewhere.

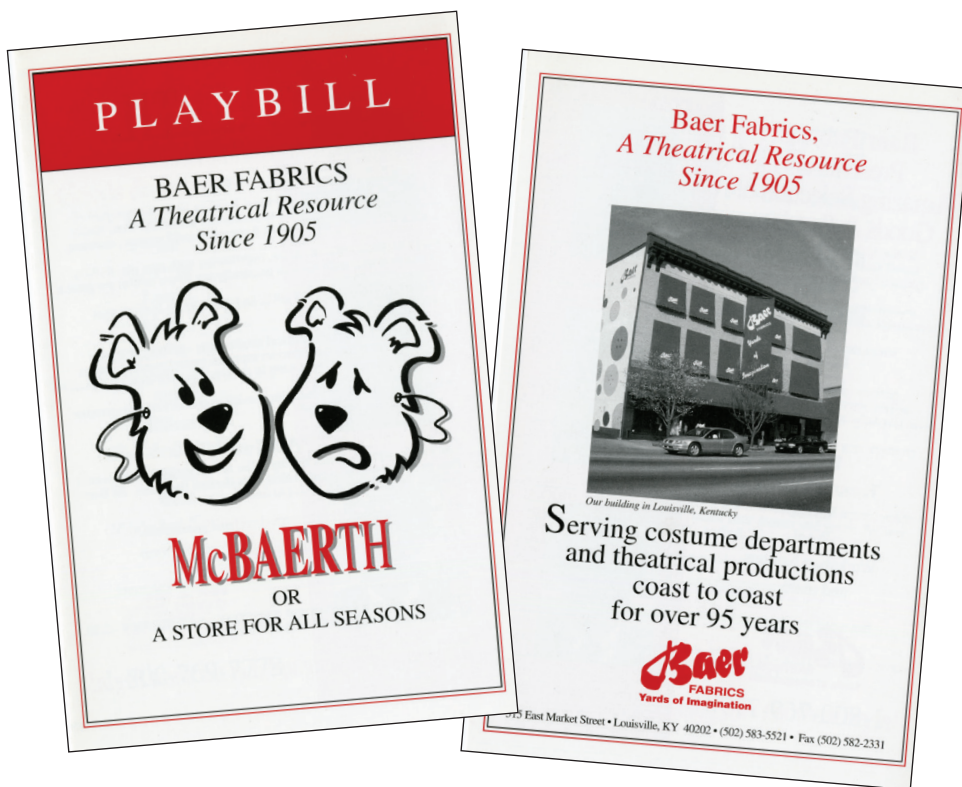
The third Baer Fabrics generation continued this legacy. In 1976, Stuart Goldberg (1941–), husband of Abraham and Ida’s daughter Linda (1941–), joined the company. Like his predecessor, Stuart responded to market changes and diversified Baer Fabrics’ inventory. As noted in company history documents, he enlarged existing departments—“bridal, fashion, dance, drapery, quilting supplies, notions and buttons”—and added the “upholstery and automotive fabrics” departments. One of Baer Fabrics’ best-known features was its affectionally named “button wall,” an organized assortment of over 10,000 buttons. As Stuart and sewing professionals occasionally noted, if Baer Fabrics didn’t have a button or fabric, it probably didn’t exist. The women’s fashion and the bridal



Barb Harp and the Baer’s Den Quilters at Baer Fabrics with their National Quilting Association award winning Mexican Star Cross quilt, 1988.



Fall fashion show and sewing event with Eunice Farmer, a sewing professional and columnist, September 1992.



Baer Fabrics advertisement for theatrical costuming supplies, circa 1990 (front and back).

departments held special appeal, and the range of available fabrics, sewing classes, and knowledgeable staff made homemade garment construction more accessible to everyone. A highlight of this collection are student and educator editions of the 1987

Fabric Thesaurus, an instructional sample book by education director Catherine Gross providing reliable information about most natural fabrics—the only copies of this unique resource in any repository in the Ohio Valley region.

Throughout Nathan's and Abraham's leadership, A. Baer Co. served as a community hub for those who sewed as a hobby or as a practical necessity. Under Stuart and Linda's leadership, Baer Fabrics made extensive contributions to local charities and community groups. The Louisville Zoological Gardens and the Salvation Army benefitted from donations by Baer Fabrics customers as part of specialized annual sales. Local quilt festivals and the Kentucky Women's Show received prizes and financial support, and the Louisville Actors' Theatre and the Louisville Ballet received sponsorships and access to costuming supplies. A business model built around learning and community featured year-round sewing classes, Camp Baer for teenagers, and workshops. Customers could showcase their projects at spring and fall fashion shows, lively gatherings that drew large crowds to the store and reinforced creative community celebration.

The 2008 closing of Baer Fabrics was shocking, swift, and emotional. The collection includes records and correspondence documenting the feelings that radiated throughout the community, including customer letters expressing sadness at losing a beloved local institution, one of the last of the once plentiful Jewish family-owned local businesses in Louisville's downtown core. Shortly thereafter, the iconic building at 515 E. Market St. was demolished to widen the I-65 freeway. The memory of this important regional business lives on in the fond recollections of its many customers and in this rich documentary record. The Baer Fabrics Collection is a valuable addition to the Filson's resources on local craft history, business history, Jewish history, women's history, and urban development in Louisville.



Baer Fabrics mail advertisement for Camp Baer, a teen summer sewing camp, 1992.



Costuming supplies catalog, ca. 1988.

NAGPRA Project Nears New Phase

For the past two years, the Filson has worked with Tribal Nations whose homelands were in the Ohio Valley and beyond to inventory, repatriate, and reinterpret Indigenous materials in its collection. Most of those productive conversations have been around the repatriation of ancestral remains and funerary objects, but in the second half of 2023, the emphasis has turned to long-term partnerships around teaching and sharing Native history in Kentucky.

With support from the James Graham Brown Foundation and the William Wood Foundation, Filson Native American Collections Specialist Kelly Hyberger has drawn upon her background in K-12 education to contract with public school teachers to produce classroom-ready lesson plans. Hyberger and Director of Collections and Research Patrick Lewis have scouted locations for a Spring 2024 Filson bus trip to study Indigenous and Imperial European sites along the Mississippi River. The tour will provide insight to French, English, Spanish, Osage, Miami, and Illinois interactions at the confluence of the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers in the century before George Rogers Clark came to the Falls of the Ohio.

On October 8, 2023, the Filson joined its partners at the University of Louisville Office of Hispanic, Latinx, and Indigenous Initiatives to sponsor the Louisville Social Powwow, a day of food, dancing, and cultural celebration held at the Speed Art Museum, to commemorate Indigenous People's Day. This was followed by a listening session for statewide cultural and history professionals, hosted by Hyberger and Emma Bryan, the Filson's Community Engagement Specialist, to better understand the

needs and capacity for sharing Native history at Kentucky's cultural institutions, libraries, classrooms, and historic sites. October ended with a multi-day visit by NAGPRA coordinators, Tribal Historical Preservation Officers, and archaeologists, which helped set a long-term agenda for the Filson to be a key on-the-ground partner for the tribes with ancestral ties to Kentucky, especially entering the 250th anniversaries of the American Revolution, colonization of the Ohio Valley, and Kentucky statehood.

The grant funding also underwrote the participation of speakers on Indigenous history topics at the Filson's biennial academic conference, *New Voices in Kentucky Material Culture*, on October 13-14, hosted in partnership with the Museum of Early Southern Decorative Arts. Attendees learned from curators, academics, and material culture collectors about topics including Native knowledge embedded in colonial maps contrasting with European expectations of land naming and claiming, the visual diplomatic language of tattoos in the 18th century west, the consideration of non-textual record keeping in Native traditions, and the visual analysis of the growing mythology of Daniel Boone separating him from a cast of peer settlers in the half century following his death.

"Our treatment of Indigenous collections and the lack of good partnerships with Tribal Nations was a weak point just a couple of years ago," said Patrick Lewis, "but this grant funding and the hard work by Kelly has flipped that entirely. We have listened and learned from these Tribal Nations, and the Filson is proud to help amplify their priorities in preserving and sharing the past and future of these Ohio Valley communities."



Miranda Panther, NAGPRA Coordinator from the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, and Aaron Comstock, Assistant Professor of Anthropology at the University of Louisville examine Native pottery at the Filson as part of a collaborative NAGPRA repatriation consultation project.



Summer Interns



De'Ayjah Talbert

SummerWorks Education and Development Assistant | Summer 2023

The Filson is delighted to continue our partnership with the KentuckianaWorks SummerWorks Program! This summer, De'Ayjah Talbert worked with Community Engagement Specialist, Emma Bryan, on the Education and Development Team.

De'Ayjah is 19 years young and graduated from Southern High School in 2022. She is a hair and nail tech, who loves challenges and math! Prior to the Covid-19 pandemic, De'Ayjah intended to pursue a career in nursing. However, the pandemic presented De'Ayjah with the opportunity to start doing her own hair and learning how to do other's hair as well. Her current career goals are to attend cosmetology school, become a licensed hair stylist and nail tech, and eventually open her own business!

De'Ayjah helped the Filson to prepare and facilitate our Cultural Pass Youth programming, researched and produced engaging content for social media, assisted with information management such as updating contact information for Jefferson County Public Schools social studies teachers and compiling information about the authors of the Louisville Story Program's most recent publication, *If You Write Me A Letter Send It Here: Voices of Russell in a Time of Change*, as well as assisting in updating our local food and dining list for visitors.

De'Ayjah commented on her experience at the Filson this summer, "Working here has helped me overcome a lot of challenges. It has opened a lot of opportunities in life for me. I have learned a lot of things about my own city that I hadn't known about before, such as the 1890 Tornado. I am glad to have had this opportunity at the Filson!"



Katherine Chaudoin

AIA-CKC Fellow | Summer 2023

Katherine Chaudoin is the American Institute of Architects – Central Kentucky Chapter Fellow at the Filson this summer! Kate cataloged architectural drawings, organizing and describing them for future researchers. Her cataloging work included the Nevin & Morgan Architects Collection and an addition to the George Herbert Gray Collection. She also worked with recently digitized architecture projects, updating descriptions so they are more accessible to the public. Additionally, Kate embarked on a research project to study the community of Old Louisville and the changes the neighborhood has experienced from the late 1800s to present. In August, she gave a presentation that explores

the impact the neighborhood's 1974 preservation district designation had on community life. Kate developed a community survey to collect the stories of the people who call Old Louisville home! She expressed the importance of empowering communities to tell their own stories.

Kate is a recent graduate of the University of Kentucky, class of 2023, where she received her B.F.A. in interior design and a certificate in Historic Preservation. This fellowship gave her an opportunity to learn more about the archival side of historic preservation!

In August, Kate stepped into her new role as the Construction Design Coordinator for Camping World and will continue to utilize her research and education to become involved in local historic preservation organizations.

Six Years of Partnership

Since 2018, the Filson Historical Society and the American Institute of Architects Central Kentucky Chapter (AIA-CKC) have partnered to provide architecture students with the opportunity to develop professional archiving skills and knowledge at one of the region's premier historical research institutions. Fellows are recruited from the University of Kentucky's College of Design, and catalog, describe, and digitize architecture collections. Their work makes new collections available to researchers and fosters scholarship and public interest in the architectural history of Louisville and the Ohio Valley. Check out our architecture collections page <https://filsonhistorical.org/collections/architecture-collections/> to see a list of our collections, including recent additions! In addition to collections work, student-specific projects are pursued based on the interest of individual students. At the end of the fellowship, students present their findings in a public forum at the Filson. We welcomed Katherine Chaudoin, our seventh AIA-CKC fellow, this summer!

Growing Our Architecture Collection

The AIA-CKC fellowship enhances connections with architects, and aids in the development of our architecture holdings. In consultation with local architects, we have identified AIA Kentucky Award Winning projects as a priority for archiving. We are excited to archive projects that have received awards for their contributions to the region's built environment! A variety of materials related to these projects may potentially be collected: final drawings, renderings, sketches, drawings from various iterations of the design process, photographs, and project files. Future fellows will have plenty of work to do!

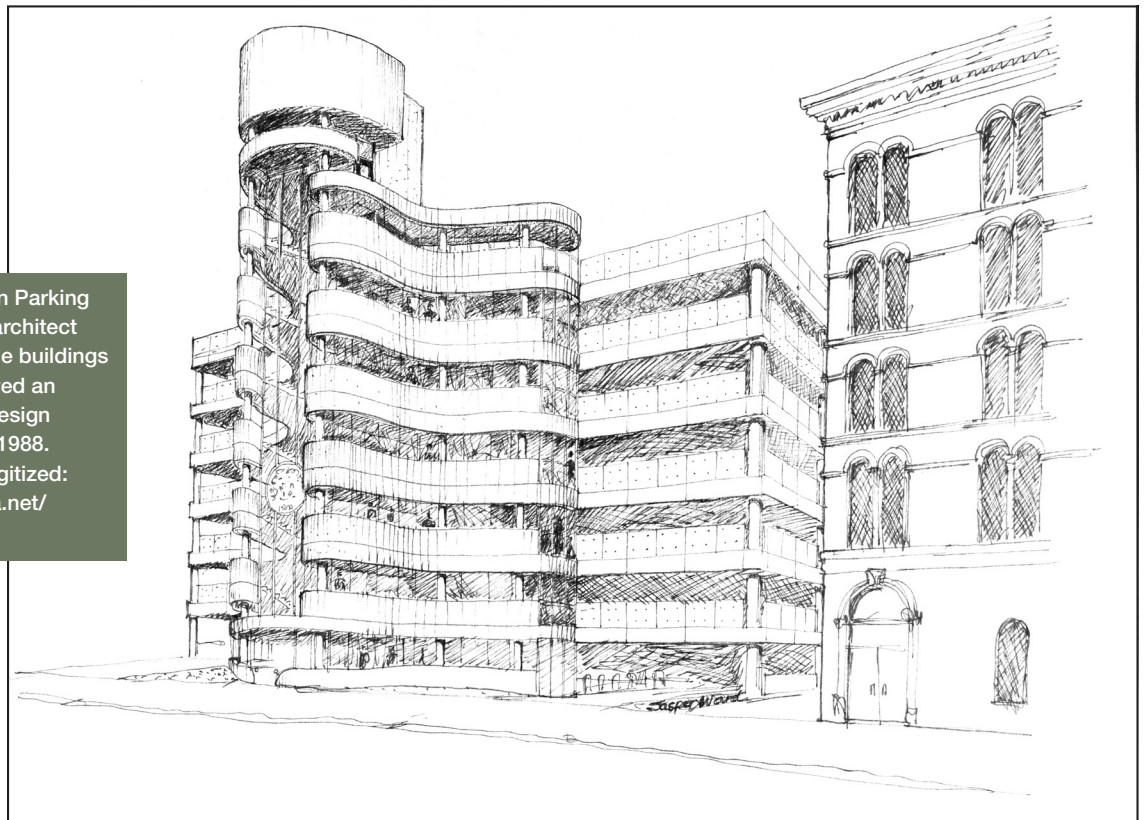


AIA
Central Kentucky



Architecture
at University of Kentucky

Rendering of the Sixth & Main Parking Garage, an example of how architect Jasper Ward treated mundane buildings with style. This project received an Excellence in Architectural Design Award from AIA Kentucky in 1988. Selected project drawings digitized: <https://filsonhistorical.omeka.net/collections/show/84>



People Passage Place

Exhibit Refresh



Charlene Hampton Holloway and Leon H. Hampton, Jr., at the Black Expo Louisville, 1987. Charlene Holloway Photograph Collection [020PC23.026]



Charles D. Whitlock and granddaughter Charlene Hampton, Whitlock Florist Shop, 1948. Charlene Holloway Photograph Collection [020PC23.020]

This autumn, a portion of the Filson's semi-permanent exhibit, *People Passage Place: Stories of the Ohio Valley*, is getting a refresh. The Family History Spotlight will now feature the Whitlock-Hampton family, and the Local Luminary section will feature Charlene Hampton Holloway.

For over 100 years, members of the Whitlock-Hampton family have used their talents as entrepreneurs, activists, educators, healthcare professionals, civil servants, and community volunteers to impact the lives of Louisvillians. Charles D. Whitlock was the grandson of Cornelia Wallis, a formerly enslaved woman, and John C. Whitlock, a white doctor from Christian County. At the age of 16, Charles left his home in Hopkinsville and moved to Louisville. After marrying Parthenia Hamilton in 1916, he devoted himself to supporting his wife and two daughters. While working full time at the post office and serving as a deacon, he opened the first Black-owned florist shop in Louisville's California neighborhood.

Charles D. Whitlock's eldest daughter, Charles "Thelma" Whitlock, developed a love of music at a young age, and in her teen years she played piano at churches in the California neighborhood. Thelma studied at the University of Indiana Bloomington's School of Music, unable to attend the University of Louisville due to the Kentucky Day Law. She later returned to Louisville, where she married Leon Hampton and led music programs at Jefferson County Public Schools for 30 years.

In their teen years, Thelma's children, Charlene Hampton Holloway and Leon Hampton, Jr., actively participated in peaceful marches and sit-ins throughout Louisville, seeking an end to Jim Crow segregation laws. On April 18, 1961, when she was just 13, Charlene was arrested at a sit-in at Kupie Restaurant. In June, she was arrested again for peacefully marching outside Fontaine Ferry Park, an amusement park that denied entry to Black families. In 1964, she and her father walked in the March on Frankfort

along with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., pushing for a state public accommodations law.

Both Charlene and Leon went on to make social impacts in adulthood. Leon worked in politics and obtained his law degree, going on to a career at the Department of Commerce and the Environmental Protection Agency. As a registered nurse, Charlene worked at various Louisville hospitals and volunteered for healthcare services at community events. Throughout the past 20 years, she has participated in various civil rights marches. She's currently serving her fourth term as a volunteer executive officer for Louisville's NAACP branch.

The Filson is proud to feature Charlene and her family in our exhibit, and to preserve and share their history through a variety of collections. To learn more about this family and to view photos from the Whitlock-Hampton family collection, come see the new additions to *People Passage Place*. You can also read more about Charlene and her family in her own words in her book, *Whitlock's Compositions*.



Thelma Whitlock Hampton at the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Memorial Library, 2005. Charlene Holloway Photograph Collection [020PC23.013]



March on Frankfort Bumper Sticker, March 5, 1964. Filson Museum Collection [2023.25.1]



The Filson
Historical
Society

**NASH
GALLERY**
ongoing

The semi-permanent exhibit *People Passage Place: Stories of the Ohio Valley* shares stories of family, community, art and craftspersonship, business and agriculture, social justice movements, Indigenous heritage, colonial settlement, Antebellum, Civil War, and Reconstruction narratives, travel, immigration, religion, foodways, music, and more. You are invited to engage with the Filson's collections and to think critically about how history shapes your lives and communities.

Exhibit generously sponsored by:

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MEMBER FDIC

ANIMALS IN THE ARCHIVES

SEPTEMBER 8, 2023–FEBRUARY 9, 2024

In collaboration with the 2023 Louisville Photo Biennial, the Filson launched an exhibition featuring pet photography culled from our archives.

From the inception of photography, pets have been a common theme that can be found throughout family photograph collections. These images document and exemplify the unbreakable bond between people and animals throughout history. Join us as we explore pet photography from the Filson's archives and learn more about the Ohio Valley families that owned them. The exhibit is on display from *September 8, 2023, through February 9, 2024.*



Animals in the Archives is generously sponsored by:

Stock Yards
Bank & Trust
SINCE 1904

THURSDAY, JANUARY 25, 6:00–7:00 PM | HYBRID

The Filson Historical Society, 1310 S. 3rd St., Louisville
Free for members, \$18 for non-members

The Hidden 1980s: Pop Culture in the Reagan Era

Daniel Gifford, Ph.D.

What can some of the 1980s biggest hit movies and television shows tell us about the conservatism of the Reagan Era? While pop culture and politics may seem like separate spheres, each has always influenced the other, especially during the 1980s. We will revisit iconic bits of 80s popular media in order to see how America was dramatically shifting over the course of the decade. Discover how in many ways we are still living in a world created by 1980s television and film.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 6:00–7:00 PM | HYBRID

The Filson Historical Society, 1310 S. 3rd St., Louisville
Free for members, \$18 for non-members

The Hidden 1980s: Pop Music in the Reagan Era

Daniel Gifford, Ph.D.

Pop music, and especially the launch of music videos into the mainstream, turned out to be a futile battleground for messages about gender, sexuality, and race. Revisit iconic 80s music and music videos to discover a constantly-swinging pendulum between the transgressive and the conservative. We trace genres of music through the 1980s to the collapse of the Berlin Wall and the dawn of global music genre fueled by American artists, nightlife, and subcultures.

THE FILSON GOES
BACK
TO THE **EIGHTIES**

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 6:30–9:00 PM | IN PERSON

The Filson Historical Society, 1310 S. 3rd St., Louisville
\$45 for members, \$55 for non-members

Join the Filson for a 1980s themed blast to the past. You'll have plenty of time to dance the Thriller or Pogo to your favorite music videos from big hair bands to cutting edge New Wave hits. Photo ops with a DeLorean and 80s celebrities. Don't miss the upstairs Food Court and Video Arcade. Dust off your leather pants, pop that preppy collar on your Izod shirt, get out the hair spray and participate in a costume contest.

Price includes free entertainment, drink ticket and appetizers. Cash Bar will be available. Period appropriate attire is highly encouraged.

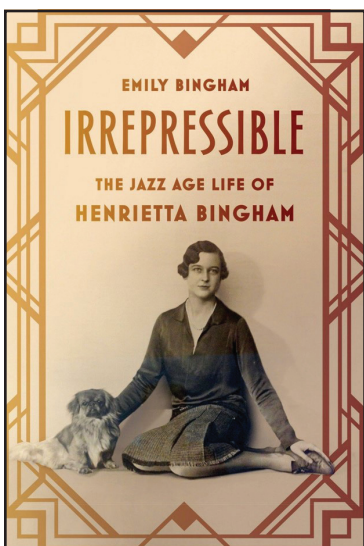
The Binghams of Louisville

By Jayne McClew, volunteer and Heather Potter, Curator of Photographs and Prints

The Binghams were one of the most influential Louisville families of the 20th century. The family built fortunes, reputations and, sadly, lost loved ones in the last century, inspiring headlines, gossip, and numerous books, a few written by Bingham descendants. In 2022 the Filson began cataloging the extensive Bingham Family Photograph Collection, ca. 1910-mid 1990s documenting four generations of the family.



Judge Robert Bingham is photographed with his two older children, Robert Worth Bingham II, and Henrietta Bingham.



Henrietta ran with the famous Bloomsbury Set in England. In 2015, her grandniece author Emily Bingham detailed her life in the book, *Irrepressible: The Jazz Age Life of Henrietta Bingham*.

Robert Worth Bingham, a North Carolina native, married Louisvillian Eleanor Miller in 1896, settling in Louisville to raise three children. Following the deaths of Eleanor, and his second wife, Standard Oil heiress Mary Lily Flagler, Bingham purchased *The Courier-Journal* and the *Lou-*

isville Times. Though known throughout his life as Judge Bingham, following a brief stint on Jefferson County Circuit Court, Bingham's final title was U.S. Ambassador to the Court of St. James, the British ambassadorship. After Bingham's death in 1937, his second son, George Barry Bingham, Sr. took over leadership of the newspapers and WHAS radio.



Barry Bingham Sr. meets with longtime *Courier-Journal* political cartoonist, Hugh Haynie. *The Courier-Journal* won six Pulitzer Prizes during the Bingham era, though sadly, none for Haynie's work.

Barry Sr., a Harvard graduate, made a lifelong match with a Radcliffe alumna, Mary Caperton of Virginia. The couple had five children: Robert Worth III, George Barry Jr., Sallie, Jonathan, and Eleanor.

Famed portrait photographer Dorothy Wilding, of London and New York City, fixed her lens on the Bingham family several times. This stunning profile photograph was taken by Wilding early in Barry Sr. and Mary's relationship.



In addition to running the family business, the Bingham family traveled extensively, including an extended stay in Paris, France while Barry Sr. assisted in implementation of the Marshall Plan following World War II. Back in Louisville, the Bingham family estate, known as Melcombe, featured two homes, gardens, and an amphitheater.

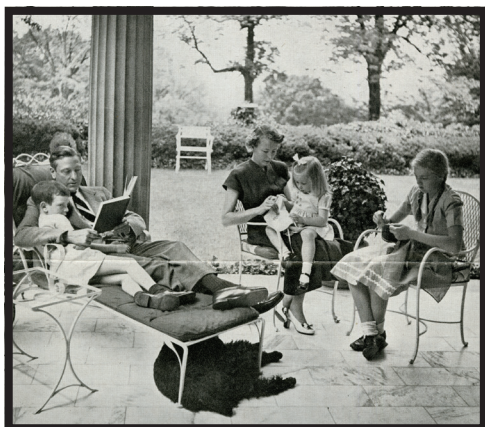


This late 1950s gathering of the Binghams in the "Big House" at Melcombe included Worth's wife, Joan, and Sallie's first husband, Whitney Ellsworth.



Within the collection are several photos of ocean crossings taken by the family. Pictured here are Sallie, Barry Sr., and Mary on the R.M.S. Queen Mary in the 1950s.

Of the Bingham children, two of the sons would die tragically, Jonathan at age 21 and Worth at 34. Barry Jr. led the Bingham media properties after his father retired in 1971. Sallie authored numerous books, plays and is the founder of the Kentucky Foundation for Women. Eleanor is a television/film producer and director and has a special interest in land conservation.



A titan of media sometimes drew media attention himself. Barry Sr. and Mary are featured with Eleanor, Sallie, and Jonathan in an issue of the magazine, *Town & Country*.

The vast family collection also includes photos of Barry Sr. and Mary's grandchildren, whom they influenced with the family traditions of exploration, philanthropy, and regard for the written word. The Bingham media empire—which, after 1950, included WHAS-TV—was sold in 1986. Barry Sr. died in Louisville in 1988 and Mary, in 1995.



The son of America's ambassador to Great Britain in the 1930s, Barry Sr. shared his fascination with England with his wife, Mary. Here, the couple meets Princess Margaret, the sister of Queen Elizabeth II.

Summer vacation time often found the Binghams in Chatham, Massachusetts, a seaside community on the tip of Cape Cod. This is Mary with her daughter Eleanor in 1947.



The Bingham Family Photographic Collection shares the personal side of the Bingham story, including generational portraits, family vacation snapshots and unique photographic details of one of Louisville's most storied families. Heather Potter, curator of photographs and Jayne McClew, Filson volunteer have spent the last eighteen months researching, arranging, and cataloging this extensive collection. An online exhibition of Bingham Family photographs is planned for January 2024 and can be accessed via the Filson's OMEKA website, <https://filsonhistorical.omeka.net/exhibits/show/binghams/intro>



Filson volunteer Jayne McClew's first job in Louisville was at the former Bingham media property, WHAS-TV. During her career she has interviewed several Bingham family members. Now retired, Jayne enjoys learning more about the family through her work with the photographic collection.

The Filson's Volunteer Program

Seeking more hands-on engagement with Ohio Valley History? Consider volunteering with the Filson! There are a variety of ways to become involved!

Our volunteers assist us with collections projects such as catalog entries, inventory assessments, transcription, organization in storage, and historical research needs. Volunteers are involved in exhibit preparation, installation, and deinstallation. Our volunteers serve as tour guides and docents for our daily tours and assist us with special events! With increasing interest from our community, the possibilities for volunteer involvement are evolving!

In addition to the day-to-day work and operations, Filson volunteers contribute immeasurably to our institutional historical knowledge, and help to create a community of individuals brought together by a shared interest in and passion for the history of the Ohio Valley.

Throughout this year, the Filson has benefitted from the work of 44 volunteers who have contributed over 1,200 collective hours. Projects supported by volunteer work include: the photograph collections of the Bingham Family, Miles Park Racetrack, Rogers Clark Ballard Thruston (Jefferson County); the records of the Jewish Community of Louisville, Claudia Hammer's Fashion Illustrations, the Filson's silver collection, and Hugh Haynie's cartoon collection just to name a few!

The generous donation of time, energy, creativity, and passion from our volunteer base is integral to the fulfillment of our mission! Thank you, Filson Volunteers!

Interested in learning more about the Filson's volunteer program? Contact Community Engagement Specialist, Emma Bryan: (502) 635-5083 or emmabryan@filsonhistorical.org



Photo taken at our volunteer luncheon this spring! Pictured around the table starting on the left moving counterclockwise: Shelby Craig, Jamie Evans, Sarah Bruns, Keith Kleehammer, Cheryl Sweeney, Milos Maldonado, and Amanda Maldonado.

This spring we celebrated 30 years of service from volunteer Joan Brennan! She is pictured here with Filson Director of Collections Access, Jennie Cole



Collections Volunteers Paul Peterson (left) and Chip Arbegust (right) sitting outside on a cool fall day cleaning inactive mold from a recently donated collection of letters

Tuesday, January 30, 2024, 6:00–7:00 pm | Hybrid
The Kentucky Center—Bomhard Theater, 501 W. Main St., Louisville
Free for members, \$26.33 for non-members

King: A Life

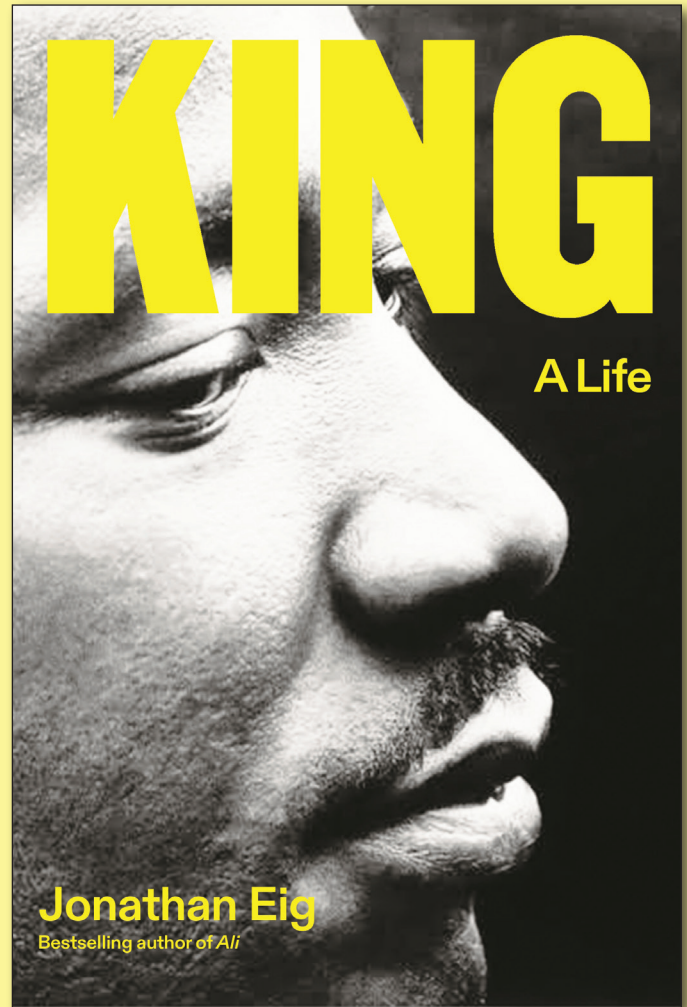
Jonathan Eig

Vividly written and exhaustively researched, Jonathan Eig's *King: A Life* is the first major biography in decades of the civil rights icon Martin Luther King Jr.—and the first to include recently declassified FBI files. In this revelatory new portrait of the preacher and activist who shook the world, the bestselling biographer gives us an intimate view of the courageous and often emotionally troubled human being who demanded peaceful protest for his movement but was rarely at peace with himself. He casts fresh light on the King family's origins as well as MLK's complex relationships with his wife, father, and fellow activists. *King* reveals a minister wrestling with his own human frailties and dark moods, a citizen hunted by his own government, and a man determined to fight for justice even if it proved to be a fight to the death. As he follows MLK from the classroom to the pulpit to the streets of Birmingham, Selma, and Memphis, Eig dramatically re-creates the journey of a man who recast American race relations and became our only modern-day founding father—as well as the nation's most mourned martyr.

In this landmark biography, Eig gives us an MLK for our times: a deep thinker, a brilliant strategist, and a committed radical who led one of history's greatest movements, and whose demands for racial and economic justice remain as urgent today as they were in his lifetime.

Jonathan Eig is a former senior writer for *The Wall Street Journal*. He is the *New York Times* bestselling author of several books, including *Ali: A Life*, *Luckiest Man: The Life and Death of Lou Gehrig*, and *Opening Day: The Story of Jackie Robinson's First Season*. Ken Burns calls him “a master storyteller,” and Eig's books have been listed among the best of the year by *The Washington Post*, *Chicago Tribune*, *Sports Illustrated*, and *Slate*.

Thank you to our sponsors: Dace Brown Stubbs, Marshall Farrer, Dace Polk Brown, Laura Lee Brown, Garvin Deters, Polk Deters, Laura Lee Gastis, Garvin Brown IV, and Campbell Brown.



Praise for *King: A Life*

“Supple, penetrating, heartstring-pulling and compulsively readable ... The first comprehensive biography of King in three decades ... and it supplants David J. Garrow’s 1986 biography *Bearing the Cross* as the definitive life of King, as Garrow himself deposed recently ... [Eig’s is] a clean, clear, journalistic voice, one that employs facts the way Saul Bellow said they should be employed, each a wire that sends a current ... Eig’s book is worthy of its subject.”

—Dwight Garner, *The New York Times* (Book Review Editors’ Choice)

Thursday, March 7, 2024, 6:00–7:00 pm | Hybrid
 The Kentucky Center—Bomhard Theater, 501 W. Main St., Louisville
 Free for members, \$26.33 for non-members

The Pursuit of Happiness

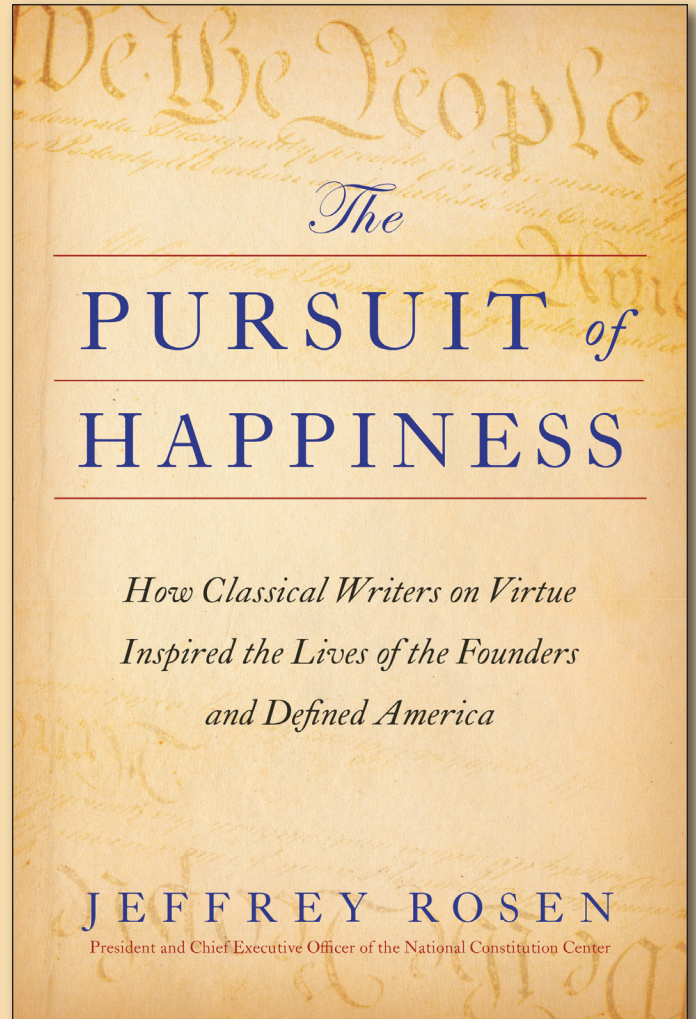
How Classical Writers on Virtue Inspired the Lives of the Founders and Defined America

Jeffrey Rosen

The Declaration of Independence identified “the pursuit of happiness” as one of our unalienable rights, along with life and liberty. Jeffrey Rosen, the president of the National Constitution Center, profiles six of the most influential founders—Benjamin Franklin, George Washington, John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, and Alexander Hamilton—to show what pursuing happiness meant in their lives.

By reading the classical Greek and Roman moral philosophers who inspired the Founders, Rosen shows us how they understood the pursuit of happiness as a quest for being good, not feeling good—the pursuit of lifelong virtue, not short-term pleasure. Among those virtues were the habits of industry, temperance, moderation, and sincerity, which the Founders viewed as part of a daily struggle for self-improvement, character development, and calm self-mastery. They believed that political self-government required personal self-government. For all six Founders, the pursuit of virtue was incompatible with enslavement of African Americans, although the Virginians betrayed their own principles.

The Pursuit of Happiness is more than an elucidation of the Declaration’s famous phrase; it is a revelatory journey into the minds of the Founders, and a deep, rich, and fresh understanding of the foundation of our democracy.



Praise for *The Pursuit of Happiness*

“Jeffrey Rosen found a ‘gap’ in his education, such as we all have. In filling it he has written a masterpiece of intellectual history about the Founders, renewing, we can hope, our reading of them and *what they read*. Here is the enriching story of how ‘pursuit of happiness’ never meant pleasure or success, but the self-governing quest, always unachieved, of *virtue*. This brilliant work is very new about very old ideas that refresh the spirit.”

—David W. Blight, Yale University, author of
Frederick Douglass: Prophet of Freedom



Jeffrey Rosen is President and CEO of the National Constitution Center, where he hosts *We the People*, a weekly podcast of constitutional debate. He is also a professor of law at the George Washington University Law School

and a contributing editor at *The Atlantic*. Rosen is a graduate of Harvard College, Oxford University, and Yale Law School. He is the author of seven previous books, including the *New York Times* bestseller *Conversations with RBG: Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg on Life, Love, Liberty, and Law*. His essays and commentaries have appeared in *The New York Times Magazine*; on NPR; in *The New Republic*, where he was the legal affairs editor; and in *The New Yorker*, where he has been a staff writer.

Filsonian listing reflects membership gifts received July 20–October 20, 2023

The Filsonians

July–October 2023

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If you have made a legacy 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 circle. If you would like

more information on the Thruston Legacy Circle, please contact our Development Director, Brenna Cundiff, at 502.634.7108 or by email at brenna@filsonhistorical.org.

We want to thank the Thruston Legacy Circle members listed below for investing in the future of our organization by making a legacy gift to the Filson Historical Society.

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