

# The Filson

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



Recent Acquisitions	Browsing in our Archives	House Tour	Staff Profile	Annual Fund	NARM Association	Exhibits	People Passage Place	140th Anniversary Events	Southern Jewish Historical Society	Filson Sporting Clay Classic	Music Under the Trees	The Filsonians
3	5	7	9	10	11	12	13	14	17	16	17	18

## From the President

The Filson is located at 1310 S. 3rd St., at the edge of Old Louisville, halfway between downtown to the north and the University of Louisville and the Speed Art Museum to the south. Most of our ten founders lived 140 years ago, at the time of our founding, in this area. The purchase of the wonderful Beaux Arts Ferguson Mansion 40 years ago at the Centennial of the Filson's founding demonstrated an enduring commitment to this beautiful historic neighborhood.

We believe in Old Louisville and play an active role in its vitality. In 2016, the Filson's board completed a capital campaign for \$12.5 million and constructed the beautiful and highly functional Owsley Brown II History Center, while also creatively renovating for public use the second floor of the Ferguson Mansion and rehabbing the original carriage house to serve as the Filson's signature entrance. This created additional archival, digitization, and lecture space, resulting in the award of the coveted 2022 American Institute of Architects National Award.

The Filson is the quintessential good neighbor. We host Old Louisville neighborhood gatherings and serve as the gateway to the fabled annual St. James Art Fair. Architectural historians and students use our collection

to understand the evolution of Old Louisville. We sponsor Monday-Friday tours of our campus and welcome the many tour groups that walk the neighborhood. We treasure our relationships with the Old Louisville Neighborhood Association, Shakespeare in the Park, the Olmsted Parks Conservancy, Treyton Oak Towers, the Asia Institute-Crane House, the Cabbage Patch Settlement House, the Kentucky College of Art + Design, local restaurants, UofL, our friends down the street at the Speed and further south at Churchill Downs, and the 4th Division Police Department headquartered in Central Park—among others.

We have a huge stake in the continued vibrancy of Old Louisville. We will always look for ways to enhance the part of this neighborhood we chose 40 years ago. Our location between the Central Business District and the University of Louisville is a meaningful expression of our national role as both a public and academic history flagship. Our location reflects our mission to collect, preserve and share the significant history and culture of Kentucky and the Ohio Valley.



Richard H.C. Clay

President & CEO, The Filson Historical Society

## From the Chair

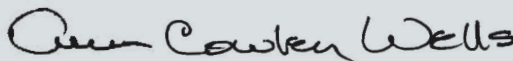
By the time you read this letter, the Filson will have celebrated its 140th anniversary at the Filson140: A Heritage Jubilee. In partnership with Springfest, the Filson, along with several other community organizations, joined together to celebrate our collective anniversaries in a fun, family-friendly atmosphere. Community is at the heart of what we do, and we look forward to collecting, preserving, and sharing our region's history for the next 140 years and beyond.

In the coming months, you will have the opportunity to participate in a few of our staple events. On Friday, August 9, the Filson will be back at Oxmoor Farm for our annual Music Under the Trees event, sponsored by Baird. Join us as we welcome The Crashers back for this fun, family-friendly event. The Filson will host the 30th Annual House Tour on Sunday, September 15. The House Tour Committee, led by Anita Streeter, has worked tirelessly to bring you more stunning homes to tour in our annual fundraiser. Finally, on October 18, the Filson will be back at the Sporting Club at the Farm in New Albany for the Filson Sporting Clay Classic. More

details about these events can be found within this issue of *The Filson*.

Finally, I hope you will join us as we celebrate James Holmberg's 42-year tenure at the Filson. Jim, who is retiring to part-time this summer, has been a fixture at the Filson since 1982, seeing the organization through many transitions. Jim's musings on his time at the Filson can be found on pages 8 and 9, along with some photos from his years here. In honor of Jim's dedication and leadership at the Filson, we are excited to launch the Holmberg Lecture Series this fall. More details will be forthcoming in future mailings.

Thank you for your continued support and participation in our endeavors. Together, we will continue to write the story of the Filson's legacy for years to come.



Ann Wells, Board Chair

**COVER:** Hadley Pottery collection of the Filson, exhibited in *People, Passage, Place*. See more on page 13.

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## The Filson

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and story ideas.

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## OUR MISSION:

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



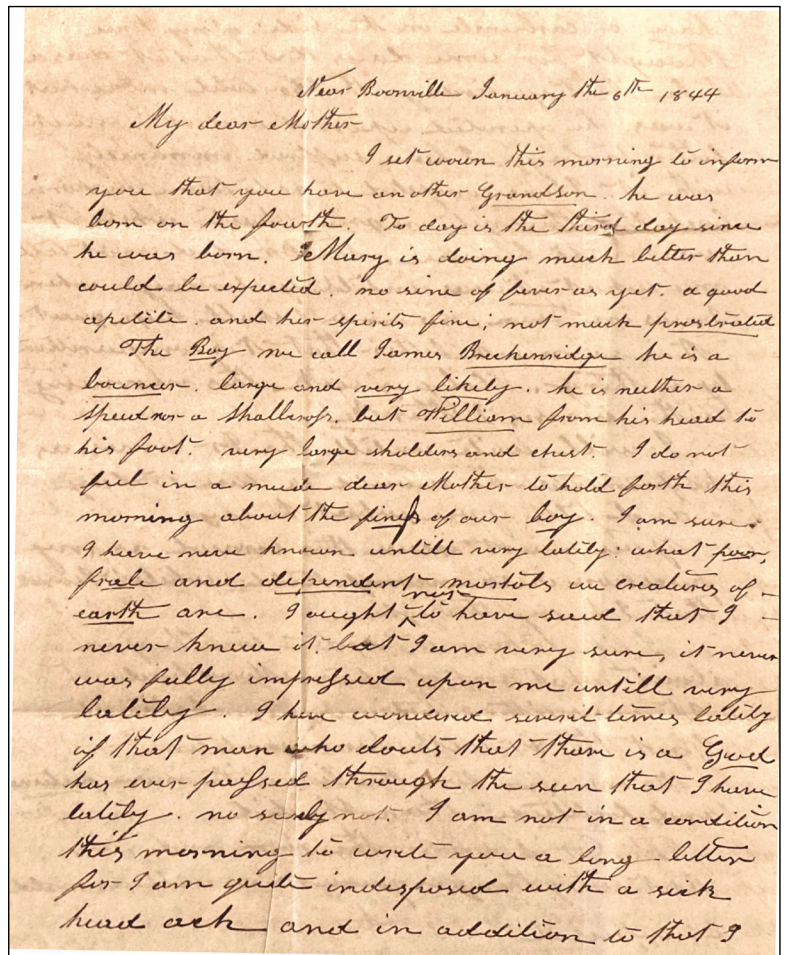
# Recent Acquisitions



Filson intern and PhD student Hayley Salo recently conducted an interview with Stuart Goldberg on the history of **Baer Fabrics** in Louisville, Kentucky. The oral history is now preserved in the Filson's collection as a 2-hour, 13-minute audio recording. Hayley also processed the Baer Fabrics records and photograph collection with the guidance of Lynn Pohl and Abby Glogower. (Donated by Stuart Goldberg and Hayley Salo)



**Anshei Sfar** photographs show the interior and exterior of Anshei Sfar Synagogue at 3700 Dutchmans Lane in Louisville, Kentucky, taken by Stuart Goldberg after the Jewish Community Center purchased the building in 2018. This photograph shows a stained-glass window in the synagogue. (Donated by Stuart Goldberg)



This letter was written by **William S. Speed** to his mother, **Lucy G. Speed**, on January 6, 1844. It reports the birth of his son, James Breckinridge Speed. As an adult, J. B. Speed became one of Louisville's wealthiest citizens. (Donated by Andrew Albatys)





This mounted photograph, compiled of three overlapping images, features the **Courier-Journal Company's Editorial Corps** in March of 1869, including prominent journalists Henry Watterson and George D. Prentice. A consolidation of the *Focus*, the *Louisville Daily Journal*, the *Morning Courier*, and the *Daily Democrat*, the *Courier-Journal* officially began publishing under the name in 1868. This photograph was autographed by the editorial members pictured, less than a year after they began publishing under the name. (Donated by Keith Runyon)

pickets took 5 prisoners. Sunday is a holiday for all the slaves and to have seen them run in here yesterday one would have thought that he was living in the dark ages. They were all shades from almost as white as Deborah to the infant 7 weeks old. To the gay hands many 5 women who wore spec- tacles. It was a curious sight and would furnish sport enough for the Budget of fun for years to come. One of the slaves gave information that his master had 2 Rebels hid in his barn. This was reported to the General and he told our Colonel to send out a party of men to get them. There was a large number volunteered to go. but they concluded to take all party of 30 to be prepared if they were led into a trap. The Captain led the party making the Negro lead the way with a pistol pointed to his head. and the promise of his being a dead man if he led them into a trap. They found the men asleep in the house about 4 miles from camp although the negro said it was only 2 1/2 miles. They searched the house but could find

This letter was written by **Jesse H. Holmes** to his mother, **Mary A. Holmes**, on April 13, 1863. Holmes's regiment during the Civil War was the 35th Massachusetts Infantry, which was temporarily stationed in Kentucky. He writes about an enslaved man being coerced at gunpoint to lead the unit to Confederate soldiers hiding near Mount Sterling, Kentucky. (Acquired through Filson Historical Acquisitions Fund)

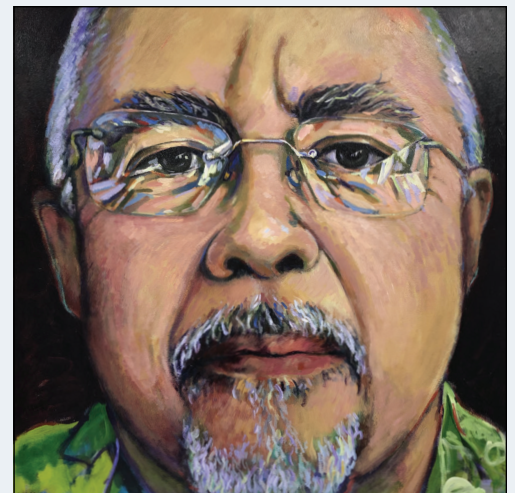
The Filson recently received three portraits by influential Kentucky artists, donated by Lexington-based artist Arturo Alonzo Sandoval.



◀ **Marvin Finn (1913–2007)** by **Shayne Hull**, oil on board, 1999. Self-taught artist **Marvin Finn** began carving animal figurines when he was a child in Alabama. He continued to create art after moving to Louisville, while working various jobs that included construction and freight loading. His iconic sculptures are recognized throughout Kentucky. **Shayne Hull** is a Louisville-based artist whose portraiture focuses on the face as an expression of the psychological complexity of humans.



**Arturo Alonzo Sandoval** by **Shayne Hull**, oil on board, 2001. Lexington-based artist **Arturo Alonzo Sandoval** was born in New Mexico to a family of weavers. His multi-media quilts and woven textiles use industrial materials such as microfilm, perforated vinyl, and monofilament thread to examine the interplay of analog and digital technologies as well as the use of traditional textile methods with nontraditional materials.



**Arturo Alonzo Sandoval** by **Diane Kahlo**, oil on linen. Lexington-based artist and human rights activist **Diane Kahlo** uses popular and traditional imagery to unmask societal issues and human rights violations. Her work exposes the violent consequences of racial and gender-based biases. This portrait pays homage to her friendship with a fellow artist.



# Digitization of Jewish Community Interviews

By Hannah O'Daniel McCallon and Courtney Evans

The Louisville Jewish Family and Career Services (JFCS) and Filson have partnered to preserve and provide access to a series of oral history interviews conducted with local Jewish seniors between 2001 and 2018. Originally started by Ann Friedman, Director of Klein Older Adult Services, this project sent volunteers to talk to seniors and listen to their stories. The volunteers used a standardized script to ask community members about their family's immigration to the United States and move to Louisville; their family and religious life in Louisville; and what they hoped their legacy would be. Some of the individuals interviewed are no longer with us, which makes the documents even more precious to their loved ones and

friends. Outsiders who did not know the narrators can also find the content significant for relaying rich stories on 20th century Jewish life in the region and beyond.

JFCS staff and volunteers have long wanted to make the 206 interviews better known and useful to their local community. The interview summaries and some supplemental material on the narrators, such as resumes, obituaries, and photographs, had been housed alphabetically in binders in the JFCS office. This past winter retired former JFCS Director Judy Tiell spurred the collaboration between JFCS and the Filson by volunteering to commit her time to scanning the documents. Filson staff worked with Tiell and JFCS Director of Advancement Courtney Evans to create a plan for indexing, digitizing, and preserving the paper interview summaries and accompanying documents.

JFCS Data Analyst Caleb Goldberg created a detailed inventory of the interviews, documenting such information as each narrator's name, birth date, college affiliation, and what they hoped their legacy would be. Former Filson Curator of Jewish Collections Abby Glogower and volunteer Rabbi Stanley Miles removed the materials from the binders and rehoused them in archival folders and boxes for long-term preservation. Tiell spent hours scanning the documents, while the Filson's Digital Archivist Hannah O'Daniel



Photograph of Gerri and Sam Synder in about the late 1940s. Gerri gifted the photograph to JFCS with her February 2018 interview.



Photograph of Irvin Jay Steinberg at the time of his interview with Irvin Goldstein in December 2015.



## QUESTIONNAIRE FOR ORAL HISTORY OF MARGOT BARR

1. I am Helene Banks, I am conducting an interview with Margot Barr for the JFCS archives on June 29, 2010.

2. Can you tell me how and why your family originally came to this country and when?

My family came to the United States in August 1939 from Donauschingen in Germany. My father and other townsmen were put in jail on Kristalnacht. We lived in a small community and my father was released from jail when the family obtained the records necessary to travel. We went to and stayed there for a couple of days because Dad's mother and other relatives lived there. Then we went to Paris for a couple of days. Dad wanted to stay, but mother said "no." We were on the last ship to leave in August of 1939. When we arrived in New York, my Dad had 10 cents. Mother's sister lived in New York. My uncle, aunt and their two children were with us on the ship. My aunt was the one who talked my mother into getting papers to be able to leave when the time came.

3 What were your parents' names and where were they born?

My father's name was Fred Bensinger and mother's name was Judith. They were Both were born in Germany.

4. What is your birth date? What language(s) were spoken in your home? Where did you live then? Who lived in the same house with you – Grandparents? Uncles/Aunts? Brothers? Sisters?

I was born September 25, 1929 (I was 9 years old when I came here.). German and Yiddish were spoken in my home and we had to learn English when we arrived in the United States. We were separated from our parents for a short time (our family didn't have any money) and our mother disapproved of the separation. Finally, we were all reunited. When we came to Louisville, Dad was given a job operating an elevator. We lived downtown on Brook Street. My brother, sister, Mother, Dad and I lived together in the same house. We lived right next to the school.

5. What was your neighborhood like? Were there other Jews living in the neighborhood? Did you walk to school? Sunday School? Temple? Was there a neighborhood grocery? Drug store?

Jews lived everywhere in the neighborhood; on 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> Streets. The Jews lived all around us. Yes, I walked to school. Both my brother and sister went to

First page of the summary of Helene Banks's interview of Margot Barr on June 29, 2010.

McCallon managed the digital files, ran optical character recognition, wrote descriptions, and uploaded the interviews to the Filson's digital collections website.

JFCS is planning on relaunching the program in July 2024 to document the next generation of seniors whose powerful stories, journeys, and lives can be preserved for generations to come.

We are excited to now share the interviews, which can be browsed and searched online at: <https://filsonhistorical.omeka.net/collections/show/119>

Scan the QR Code to view the collection and hear the interviews. The paper collection is also open for viewing in person at the Filson.





*Filson members and their guests are cordially invited to the  
30th Annual House Tour*

# *Distinctive Dwellings*

**Sunday, September 15, 2024**

**1:00–6:00 p.m.**

***Cocktail Party immediately following the conclusion of the Tour***

The Filson's annual House Tour celebrates the distinct beauty of Louisville homes. Each home is carefully selected by the House Tour committee, chaired by Anita Streeter. Each year, the house notes are researched and written by John David Myles, who has written and lectured on architecture in addition to being an attorney and former circuit judge. The tour is greatly enhanced by having different styles of homes.

The houses featured on this year's tour\* include:

- Jana and John Dowds, 4006 Glenview Ave.
- Alix and Denis Littrell, 5015 Glengregor Rd.
- Ward and Biggs Tabler, 83 Warrior Rd.
- Lelia and James Sublett, 11406 Ridge Rd.
- Elizabeth and Phil Poindexter, 27 Southwind Rd.
- Deana and Mike Paradis, 12 Overbrook Rd.
- Kim and Edwin Lewis, 1906 Mockingbird Bluff Ln.

*The 30th Annual House Tour is generously sponsored by Blue Grass Motorsport, Kentucky Select Properties, Ben Tyler Building and Remodeling, Inland Pools, Inc., Susan Lavin, FEG Investment Advisors, Limbwalker Tree Service, Inc., Advance Ready Mix, Antiques at Distillery Commons, Sterling Thompson Company, and Nanette Tafel.*

## ***The 30th Annual House Tour Sunday, September 15, 2024***

Ticket price:

PRE-SALE DISCOUNT: \$200 through July 1 at 11:59 pm

REGULAR PRICE: \$250 each July 2–September 15.

To register, please visit us online at  
[www.filsonhistorical.org/events/upcoming-events](http://www.filsonhistorical.org/events/upcoming-events)  
or call (502) 635-5083.

House Tour notes will be emailed to the email address  
you provide when registering or you may pick up a copy  
at one of the houses.



\*as of April 16, 2024



# James J. Holmberg

When I walked through the front door of the Filson on May 18, 1982, to start my first day as the manuscript assistant, I never dreamed that forty-two years later I'd be wrapping up a career that spanned more than four decades devoted to helping the Filson achieve its mission of collecting, preserving, and sharing the stories of Kentucky and the Ohio Valley's history and culture. As the saying goes, the years have flown by, or so it seems.

Perhaps it was fate that I'd devote my professional career to one institution and its mission. Serendipity played a role that I even applied for the manuscript assistant position. I was working as a grant funded project archivist at U of L at the time. I tagged along with U of L head archivist Bill Morison's class on a visit to the Filson, still in its Breckinridge Street headquarters. Jim Bentley, the manuscript curator at the time, mentioned the assistant's position was open. He was inundated with applications, and I was fortunate enough to be hired. That good fortune has lasted forty-two years.

I always enjoyed the research phase of school papers, and being immersed in original manuscripts for cataloging and assisting researchers visiting the Filson was invigorating. Every day was a learning opportunity. My knowledge of Louisville and Kentucky history grew exponentially. And working with the actual letters, diaries, ledgers, and other primary sources of the famous and the average person was exciting. I was touching history and helping make it available to researchers who in turn might produce articles, books, family histories, and other contributions to the historical or biographical record.

Another exciting part of the job was meeting and working with historians whom I'd only known by name and reputation previously; such dons of Kentucky history as Tom Clark, Lowell Harrison, Jim Klotter, and others. Doctoral candidates working on their dissertations who went on to be respected historians. Attending the monthly Filson lectures that expanded into more frequent programming in the early 1990s

allowed for even further engagement. And gradually I was presenting lectures and programs as well. This was especially true during the national interest in the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial. Lewis and Clark became one of my major research and writing focuses which helped lead to giving talks locally, regionally, and nationally. I think it was 2003 when I presented an all-time high of ninety-nine talks that year.

My personal interest in Lewis and Clark would not have lent itself to this level of engagement if the grandchildren of Temple Bodley hadn't donated the Jonathan Clark Papers—Temple Bodley Collection to the Filson in October of 1990. The bulk of the collection consisted of some fifty William Clark letters, most of them to his brother Jonathan. Discussions with the six heirs to the papers resulted in their generous and very historically minded donation. The "Dear Brother" letters, as I generally refer to them, are historically priceless, and upon first seeing them I knew they needed to be published. I was fortunate to edit them which led



Even as a youngster, Jim was in search of historical treasures.



Jim and Ed Hamilton accepting York's certificate as an honorary sergeant in the U.S. Army in a White House ceremony, January 2001.



Jim and his wife Ruthe in Prague.



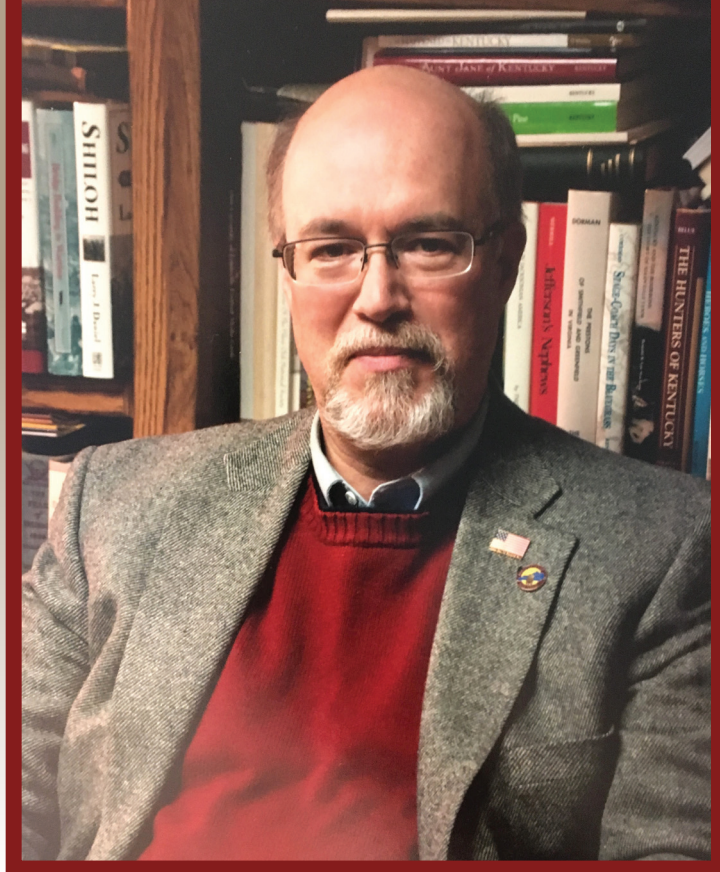
to deeper involvement in Lewis and Clark research, writing, publishing, exhibits, and organizations; interests I still pursue. This donation of a collection to the Filson is but one example of how important acquisitions are in preserving the material and building the Filson's nationally significant collection. Donor cultivation and relations have been an important and gratifying part of my work. I've met many wonderful people and had quite a few memorable experiences.

Progressing from Manuscript Assistant to Manuscript Curator to Curator of Special Collections to Curator of Collections to Filson Curator over the years presented additional opportunities and responsibilities, and I appreciate the Filson leadership for having the confidence in me to take on those positions. I've seen many staff and board members come and go over the years and I'm fortunate to have known and worked with many of them. There have been challenges but teamwork and perseverance have generally triumphed. Memories range from some you'd like to forget to the humorous and wonderful. When I explain what I do, I always stress how fortunate I am to do what I do. It's work I truly love, and I believe makes a difference, because if we don't save

our past, we don't have it to learn from. Once we lose that original manuscript, photograph, or artifact we lose a part of who we are as a people and nation. That mission to collect, preserve, and share those stories of our past is one that must continue.

And, finally, I would be remiss if I didn't thank my wife and best friend Ruthe, and

our children Elise, Aaron, and Emily. They've been unfailingly supportive through the years as my curatorial and historical pursuits have taken time away from them. They held down the fort when I worked weekends, evenings, and was out of town. To them and to the Filson I owe a great debt of gratitude for the career I've been fortunate to have.



Jim in his home office

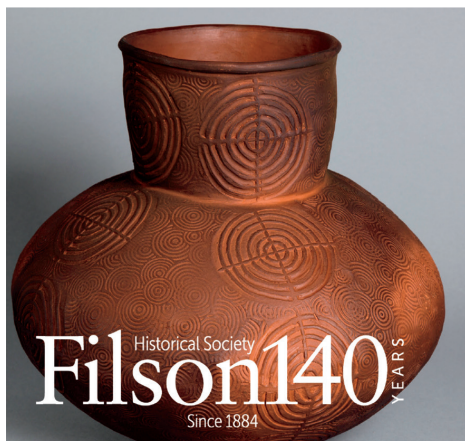


Jim giving a program on the Filson—Past, Present, and Future



Jim with William Buckner in 2013 in Kansas City picking up the Simon Bolivar Buckner family papers





# Join the Filson Historical Society's 140th Anniversary Donor Challenge

Thank you to our community and board leaders who have generously donated \$140,000, inspiring others to elevate their giving in honor of 140 years of Ohio Valley History.

William Alden, Elizabeth and Richard Clay, Holly and Joe Gathright, Jim and Sara Haynes, Robert Kulp, Kathy and Bud Orr, Ted Steinbock MD and Sarah Martin, Sharon and John Stern, Lindy B. Street, Ellen and Carl Thomas, James and Elizabeth Voyles, Ann and Darrell Wells, and Mary and Orme Wilson

The Filson Historical Society is proud to have served as a steward of our shared past and historical knowledge for the past 140 years. As we set our sights on the future, we invite you to stand with us in support of our mission. Whether through a new gift of by increasing your level of support, your contribution will play a vital role in shaping the Filson's next 140 years.

**Increase the impact of your gift by making a donation to the Filson Historical Society today!\***

\*Please call 502.634.7108 or email [brenna@filsonhistorical.org](mailto:brenna@filsonhistorical.org) for more information on the 140th Anniversary Donor Challenge.

Donate now!  
Scan the QR code today.



# EXPLORE *Your History*

## NORTH AMERICAN RECIPROCAL MUSEUM ASSOCIATION (NARM)

The NARM Association connects members with an extensive network of cultural institutions across the United States and other countries. Use your Boone level or above membership at the Filson to explore other art and history museums, children's museums, science centers, botanical gardens, and more from over 1,000 member institutions!

Visit [narmassociation.org/members](http://narmassociation.org/members) to start your next adventure!

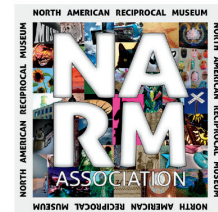
When traveling, my family always checks the NARM web site to find participating museums to visit. On a recent trip to Philadelphia, we were excited to use our Filson membership to gain free admission to Magic Gardens and the Museum of the American Revolution. We plan to use our membership benefits to visit other amazing NARM institutions, including the National Constitution Center, Eastern State Penitentiary, and the Independence Seaport Museum, during future trips to Philly!

- Lynn Pohl, Filson staff and member

Photo caption: Helena and Ezra Smith-Pohl at Philadelphia's Magic Gardens



THE **Filson** Historical Society  
Since 1884



502-635-5083



[filsonhistorical.org](http://filsonhistorical.org)



[info@filsonhistorical.org](mailto:info@filsonhistorical.org)



# Kentucky Progress

## Establishing the Kentucky State Parks

March 1–  
August 9,  
2024

One hundred years ago, history and tourism were the drivers of economic transformation in Kentucky. Liberated by the automobile, tourists could travel on their own time, away from the rails. Parks would draw visitors along newly paved roads, lodge them in modern accommodations, and familiarize them with the natural beauty and resource wealth of the state. With an eye on out-of-state industrial investment, parks were the face of **Kentucky Progress**. 2024 marks the 100th anniversary of Kentucky State Parks and the 140th anniversary of the Filson. In this exhibit, both institutions tell an intertwined story of interpreting Kentucky's past, promoting its economic success in the present, and reflecting the slow progress from segregation to inclusion.

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To view the associated programming for this exhibit, please visit [filsonhistorical.org/events/upcoming-events](http://filsonhistorical.org/events/upcoming-events).

September 13, 2024–March 14, 2025

## Driftwood

### The Life of Harlan Hubbard

Writer, artist, and sustainability pioneer Harlan Hubbard (1900–1988) lived an unassuming life, only to find himself embedded in the historical memory of Kentucky. Based on the upcoming, comprehensive biography, *Driftwood: The Life of Harlan Hubbard*, this exhibition brings to life the story of a man who, though beloved by his fellow Kentuckians, deserves broad recognition in the disciplines of American landscape painting, writing, and environmental advocacy. Through an eclectic exhibition of paintings, photographs, ephemera and other artifacts—many of which will be displayed publicly for the first time—step into a vivid portrait of Hubbard and the traces he left behind: books, journals, paintings, sketches, handcrafted and unique structures, and a template for a sustainable life in our modern ecological landscape. Guest Curated by Jessica K. Whitehead.



*Yellow Banks*, Harlan Hubbard, 1969, oil on canvas, A Gift of JPMorgan Chase, Collection of the Owensboro Museum of Fine Art.

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# People Passage Place

Hadley Pottery

You've probably seen Mary Alice Hadley's designs before—those iconic hand-painted plates and mugs can be found in kitchen cabinets across Louisville and beyond. Did you know that this distinctive pottery only became a phenomenon by accident? In the late 1930s, amateur painter and ceramicist Mary Alice Hadley couldn't find dishes sturdy and rugged enough to withstand use on her family's houseboat—so she made her own. Friends admired the pieces, and soon orders were coming into Louisville from around the country. From 1945 until the end of their lives, Mary and her husband ran Hadley Pottery Company from a factory on Story Avenue, training artists to recreate her designs and signature. The business, despite changing hands several times, continues producing Hadley's designs to this day. Recently, Hadley Pottery's Sarah Baker came to the Filson to review our Hadley holdings, including the case of Hadley creations in the *People, Passage, Place* exhibit pictured here. Sarah had this to say about her experience:

*I enjoyed a rainy afternoon in the beautiful and peaceful environs of the Filson Historical Society recently and was thrilled to pursue my passion - researching the life of Mary Alice Hadley. As the Sales & Marketing Manager for Hadley Pottery, I am committed to bringing the life of the artist into our narrative. Working with Jennie and Brooks was such a pleasure, as they had pulled all relevant resources for me. Having access to a rich treasure trove of materials at our factory, I thought I had seen everything out there. To my delight, the Filson supplied additional materials that allowed me to solve some of my history mysteries. In addition to*



*clippings, I had access to other artist files, contemporaries of Mary Alice, as well as the out-of-print book, *Clear As Mud*, edited by Warren Payne. The staff also thoughtfully pulled antique building plans of our nineteenth century building and some vintage pottery pieces. Louisville is lucky to have such a resource as the Filson to help us preserve and explore our history and to be accessible to the curious and knowledge hungry.*

The Filson looks forward to an ongoing exchange of knowledge with Hadley Pottery regarding resources here and the amazing collections and records existing at the factory on Story Avenue.



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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# 140th Anniversary Events

## July–September

**Friday, July 12, Boarding begins 12 pm, Cruise from 1–3 pm, Presentation, 2–2:15 pm | In Person**  
**Belle of Louisville, 401 West River Road, Louisville | Price: \$14.99–\$24.99 (Use promo code PARTNER for 15% discount);**  
**Scan QR Code to register at [belleoflouisville.org](http://belleoflouisville.org).**

**Filson Friday**

### *Flowing Stories of the Ohio River and Its People* *The Filson Historical Society Expedition on the Belle of Louisville*

*Sponsored by Dinsmore & Shohl, LLP.*



The Ohio River is one of America's major transportation routes. During the frontier era it was one of the major routes for traders, surveyors, soldiers, and settlers to the First American West. What was travel like during that period? What were the advantages and disadvantages of traveling down the Beautiful River as the French dubbed it. The Ohio served as the first water leg of a journey that stretched across the continent to the Pacific for the Lewis and Clark Expedition of 1803

to 1806. It traveled its entire length from Pittsburgh to the Mississippi. What was journeying down the Ohio in 1803 like for this group of intrepid explorers heading down the river and into history? What occurred at the Falls of the Ohio that makes it one of the expedition's major sites? Filson curator and Lewis and Clark historian Jim Holmberg will discuss early river travel and the Ohio's expedition connection aboard the Belle of Louisville's afternoon cruise on Friday, July 12.

**Thursday, August 15, Lecture: 6:00–7:00 pm | Hybrid | The Filson Historical Society, 1310 S. 3rd St., Louisville**  
**Lecture Only: Free for members, \$18 for potential members | Lecture and Dinner: \$60 for members, \$75 for potential members**

**Dine & Dialogue**

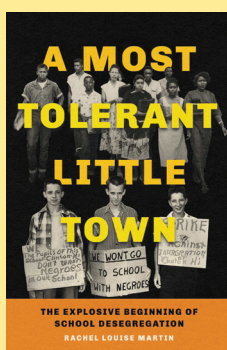
### *A Most Tolerant Little Town* *The Explosive Beginning of School Desegregation*

**Rachel Louise Martin**

*Sponsored by Dinsmore & Shohl, LLP.*



In graduate school, Rachel Martin was sent to a small town in the foothills of the Appalachians, where locals wanted to build a museum to commemorate the events of September 1956, when Clinton High School became the first school in the former Confederacy to attempt court mandated desegregation. But not everyone wanted to talk. As one founder of the Tennessee White Youth told her, “Honey, there was a lot of ugliness down at the school that year; best we just move on and forget it.” For years, Martin wondered what it was some white residents of Clinton didn’t want remembered. So, she went back, eventually interviewing over sixty townsfolk—including nearly a dozen of the first students to desegregate Clinton High—to piece together what happened back in 1956: the death threats and beatings, picket lines and cross burnings, neighbors turned on neighbors and preachers for the first time at a loss for words. The National Guard rushed to town, along with national journalists like Edward R. Morrow and even evangelist Billy Graham. But that wasn’t the most explosive secret Martin learned....



In *A Most Tolerant Little Town*, Rachel Martin weaves together over a dozen perspectives in an intimate, kaleidoscopic portrait of a small town living through a turbulent turning point for America. The result is at once a “gripping” (*The Atlanta Journal-Constitution*) mystery and a moving piece of forgotten civil rights history, rendered “with precision, lucidity and, most of all, a heart inured to false hope” (*The New York Times*). You may never before have heard of Clinton, Tennessee—but you won’t be forgetting the town anytime soon.

Rachel Louise Martin, PhD, is a historian and writer whose work has appeared in *The Atlantic* and *Oxford American*, among other publications. The author of *Hot, Hot Chicken*, a cultural history of Nashville hot chicken, and *A Most Tolerant Little Town*, the forgotten story of the first school to attempt court-mandated desegregation in the wake of *Brown v. Board*, she is especially interested by the politics of memory and the power of stories to illuminate why injustice persists in America today.



# 2024 Academic CONFERENCE



Jewish Heritage Fund



SOUTHERN JEWISH  
*Historical Society*

With sponsorship from the Jewish Heritage Fund, the Filson will be hosting the 48th Annual Conference of the Southern Jewish Historical Society, on November 1–3, 2024.

The SJHS is a dynamic, intergenerational group of professional and lay historians, and this will be the first time in its history that the organization has met in Kentucky. As the Filson celebrates both its 140th anniversary and the culmination of a seven-year effort to build robust collections and community connections documenting local Jewish experiences, this is an exciting opportunity to explore the conference's theme of "home and belonging" in the Jewish South. Stay tuned for information about registration, panels, speakers, and cultural events as the program develops this summer.

To learn more about the Southern Jewish Historical Society, please visit [JewishSouth.org](http://JewishSouth.org) or scan the QR code.



Valini Borenstine, Barbara Koby, Julie Koff, Julie Linker, and Rolla Gladstein representing Louisville as Kentucky Belles at the United Jewish Appeal (UJA) Conference, ca. 1975. Jewish Community of Louisville Photograph Collection, Filson Historical Society.

# Thankyou

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**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2024**

## **THE FILSON SPORTING CLAY CLASSIC**

**The Sporting Club at the Farm, 4939 River Road, New Albany, IN 47150**

The beautiful Sporting Club at the Farm in New Albany, IN offers 15 sporting clay stations that challenge and intrigue shooters of all levels.



**\$400 Individual | \$1,500 Team of four**

*Each participant will receive: 15-station clay shoot; Safety orientation; Complimentary coffee, water, and snacks; Swag bag; 12 or 20 gauge ammunition; Catered lunch and drinks.*

**REGISTER NOW**

**[filsonhistorical.org/classic](https://filsonhistorical.org/classic)**

FRIDAY  
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Featuring

### The Crashers

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Gates open: 5:00 pm | Music begins at 6:30 pm

For More Information and to purchase tickets, visit [www.filsonhistorical.org](http://www.filsonhistorical.org) or call (502) 635-5083.

\*Kids 12 and under free | Call the Filson to register for child tickets.

\*\*Tickets sales at the gate are cash only.

# 140th Anniversary Events July–September

*Continued from page 14*

**Tuesday, September 10, 6:00–7:00 PM**

**The Filson Historical Society, 1310 S. 3rd St., Louisville | Free for members, \$18 for potential members**

## Navigating the Political Landscape: Insights from Karen Tumulty

**Karen Tumulty—Moderated by Richard H. C. Clay**

Join us for an insightful talk with Karen Tumulty, esteemed columnist and associate editor for *The Washington Post*, as she delves into the complex dynamics shaping American politics today. With her extensive experience as a national political correspondent and recipient of the Toner Prize for Excellence in Political Reporting, Tumulty offers unique perspectives on key topics such as the impact of the recent conventions, the Trump civil and criminal trials, and the ongoing battle for abortion rights. From the challenges posed by the political impact of Supreme Court opinions to the nuances of the

electoral college versus popular vote dynamics, Tumulty explores the critical issues driving national discourse. Don't miss this opportunity to gain valuable insights into the future direction of our nation and the factors influencing it. Join us as we navigate the complexities of contemporary American politics and discuss where we are heading as a nation.

Tumulty earned a Bachelor of Journalism from University of Texas at Austin, and a Masters in Business Administration from Harvard Business School.



*Filsonian listing reflects membership gifts received January 29–April 5, 2024.*

# The Filsonians

## January–April 2024

### **FILSON Membership | \$5,000+**

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Linda M. Dabney  
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### **SHELBY Membership | \$1,000–\$2,499**

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Theodore Sedgwick  
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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](mailto: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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