

The Filson

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



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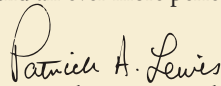
From the **President**

I was invited recently to give the first in a series of lectures at a local Presbyterian church on the history of religion in Kentucky. Somehow, after reminding the planning committee that I was a political historian of the Civil War-era—and, what's more, not a Presbyterian—they persisted, and I ended up researching the years either side of the Great Kentucky Revival in the first decade of the 1800s.

An unexpected theme that emerged in my preparation was the overwhelming presence of the American Revolution in the minds of converts, schismatics, innovators, and critics of this massive regional Awakening of belief. The tens of thousands that gathered to hear torchlight preaching and believed their bodies to be spontaneously jerked and prompted to speak in tongues by the power of the spirit fractured after they left the camp meetings into dozens of feuding sects, vying for congregational and temporal power in the post-revival West, but all agreed that the tossing out of the King from the new United States—the world turned upside down—was an act of heavenly intervention that called all people to reconsider their connection to the divine.

For a new generation born into the war or just after it, there was a palpable sense of angst about their role in the world their parents had sacrificed to establish. Were they worthy to inherit the Constitutional institutions of power? Were they challenged simply to uphold the inherited status quo or to pursue subsequent Revelations of Liberty according to the principles handed to them? By the end of their lives, the tectonic pressures of race and human rights would shatter the harmonious—yet exclusionary—political and denominational millennium that seemed at hand in the years following the Revolution. That meant Civil War. That also meant Emancipation. Did that generation fail or did they succeed in their charge?

You might have written an essay on a similar question in High School or College, but these questions are hardly academic. As we enter the 250th year of this Republic, we get to answer them for ourselves every day, equipped by our knowledge of the past and inspired to build an ever more perfect union.



Patrick A. Lewis, Ph.D.

President & CEO, The Filson Historical Society

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The Filson

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OUR MISSION:

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

From the **Chair**

The Filson Board of Directors wishes you a joyful holiday season. No matter the holidays and traditions that you celebrate, enjoy time with your loved ones and some time for yourself during the hustle and bustle of the season. Please consider the gift of a Filson membership for that history buff on your shopping list. Even the casual history fan can and will find something of interest at the Filson. The breadth of the Filson's offerings appeals to both the serious history expert and the history novice seeking simply to know more about his or her own community. Indeed, I am planning to buy a gift membership or two of my own.

I recently described the Filson as buzzing with activity. We've just concluded a wildly successful 31st Annual House Tour, another great Sporting Clay Classic, the opening of the *Black Homecoming* exhibit (please plan time for this exhibit if you haven't enjoyed it already), and the latest in the Filson's signature Gertrude Polk Brown lecture by Clay Risen, the author of *Red Scare*. These are but four of the many recent activities happening at the Filson and we invite you to join us for an upcoming event. Please go to the Filson's website for a full listing of the forthcoming offerings.

Please consider joining us on December 4th for the final Gertrude Polk Brown lecture of 2025. Anne E. Marshall will discuss her book *Cassius Marcellus Clay*:

The Life of an Antislavery Slaveholder and the Paradox of American Reform. In her book, Ms. Marshall writes about "the life of a colorful, complicated American reformer," reconsiders Clay as "emblematic rather than exceptional," and shows "today's readers why it took a violent war to finally abolish slavery and why African Americans' demands for equality struggled to gain white support after the Civil War." (quotes attributable to the University of North Carolina Press). Clay was opposed to slavery, though not for reasons you might think, and described himself as an "antislavery enslaver." Join the Filson for what one book reviewer describes as a "scholarly and very entertaining book."

As always, thank you for your support of the Filson. Your support greatly assists the Filson in the accomplishment of its mission - to collect, preserve and share the stories of the people in our region. Thank you for your meaningful impact on our organization. Your generosity and engagement are so very much appreciated. Stayed tuned for more on the Filson's plans to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776.

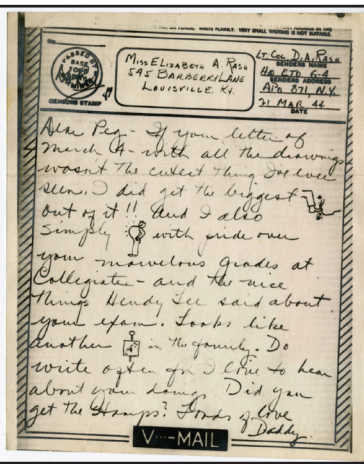
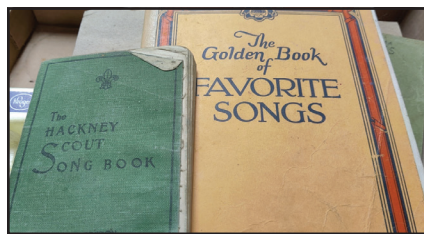


Angela Logan Edwards, Board Chair

What's New in Collections

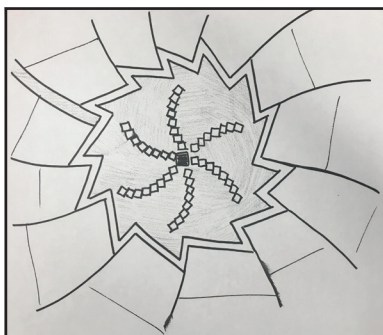
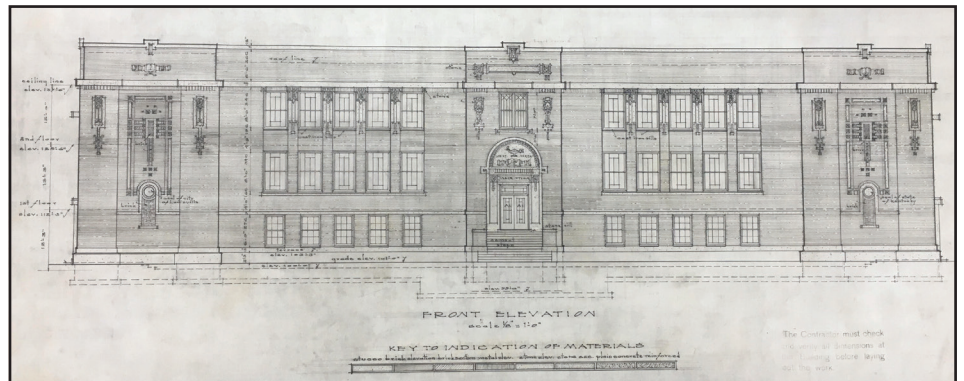
Recent Acquisitions

Goldstein family papers, photographs, and museum objects, ca. 1870–2010 [025x70, 2025.26, 025PC47] This collection documents the lives of a multi-generational Jewish family in southern Indiana, western Kentucky, and Louisville. At the core of the material is the family of Alan Goldstein, a geologist, science curator, and interpretive naturalist. Included are photos, reels of home movies (including some taken at Camp Tall Trees), songbooks, scrapbooks, paintings, and a quilt made of T-shirts. (Donated by the Family of Irvin and Daisy Goldstein)

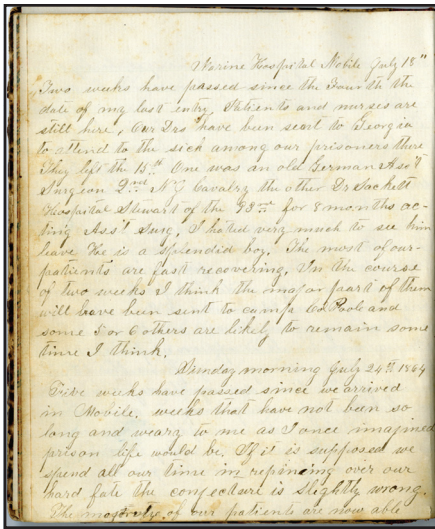


Major General Dillman A. Rash (1907–1991) papers and photographs [025x68, 025PC40, 2025.25] At the start of World War II, Dillman “Dill” Rash entered service as a Kentucky National Guard officer. Promoted to lieutenant colonel, he served as an instructor at Fort Leavenworth and later joined the G-4 (Supply) Section in Germany, earning the Bronze Star and French Medaille de Reconnaissance. In 1949 he joined the 100th Airborne, and in 1959 he became a major general. During the 1961 Berlin crisis, he trained 30,000 troops, earning the Legion of Merit and a citation from President Kennedy. (Donated by Victoria Phillips, granddaughter)

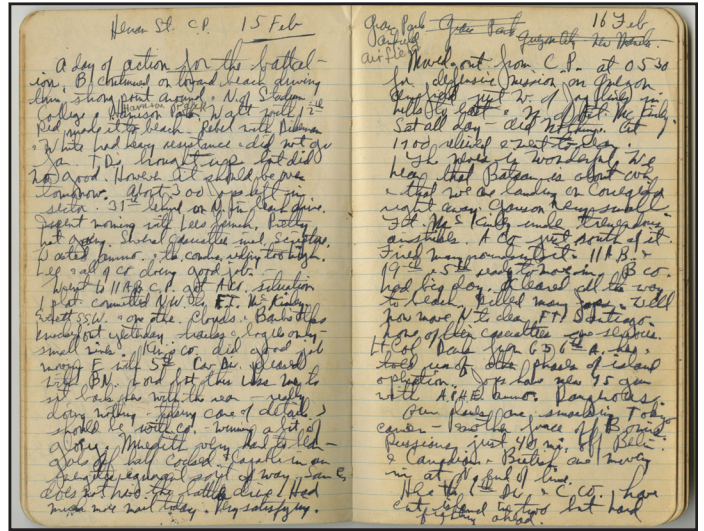
J. Earl Henry. William R. Belknap School architectural drawings, 1915 [025AR1] These are original construction drawings for the William R. Belknap School at 1810 Sils Avenue in the Highlands. The craftsmanship of the building’s terra cotta ornamentation makes it one of the city’s finest examples of Sullivanesque detailing. In 1995, the Belknap Neighborhood Association took a geometric motif from the building for its logo.



Athena Tacha. Muhammad Ali Center Plaza drawings, ca. 2002–2007 [025AR2] Pictured here is a drawing of the star fountain in the Muhammad Ali Center Plaza. This is one of a series of preparatory drawings created during Athena Tacha’s commission for the plaza. Tacha is a multimedia visual artist, and the plaza was developed in accordance with Muhammad Ali’s own ideas for the project. (Donated by Athena Tacha)



Robertson family manuscripts and photographs [025x73, 025PC41] The Robertson family collection includes manuscripts, genealogical research, and photographs of the Robertson family of Indiana and Kentucky. Of particular interest are materials related to Melville Cox Robertson and James Dempster Robertson. Melville served in the Union Army during the Civil War. He was captured during the Battle of Brice's Cross Roads, imprisoned at Cahaba Prison in Alabama, and exchanged in 1865. He died of typhoid fever while traveling to St. Louis. His journal, damaged during the Sultana disaster, was returned to the family by a fellow soldier and transcribed by Melville's brother. (Donated by the Robertson Family)



Julian Proctor Van Winkle Jr., diaries and scrapbook, ca. 1944–1945 [025x62] Van Winkle trained at Fort Knox and Camp Campbell before commanding Company D of the 44th Armored Regiment during World War II. After being promoted to captain, he led Company A of the 44th Tank Battalion through exercises and deployment to New Guinea. In October 1944, his unit landed on Leyte and faced brutal combat. During the assault on Breakneck Ridge, Van Winkle was wounded by a sniper, earning him a Purple Heart. (Donated by Sarah Van W. Campell, Kate Van W. Terry, and Julian P. Van Winkle, III)

Recently Cataloged

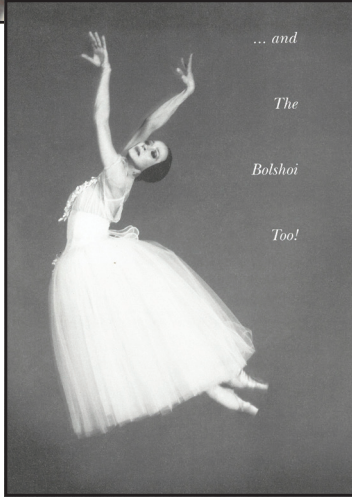


Meyer-Saxton Family Photograph Collection, ca. 1880s–2006 [025PC6] This collection consists of photographs of Bernadine Saxton Meyer (1910–2006) and Edward Crawford Meyer (1910–1977) of Louisville and their Saxton, Meyer, Scarce, and Schwab family members. Of note are photographs of Bader's Drug Store, two men standing in front of Meyer's Pharmacy, and Oertel's Bottling Plant before and after one of the buildings was razed. Pictured here are Bader's Drug Store at 1335 Story Avenue circa the 1910s and Bernadine Saxton and her family during a trip to Washington, D.C., in 1927. (Donated by Patricia E. Meyer)



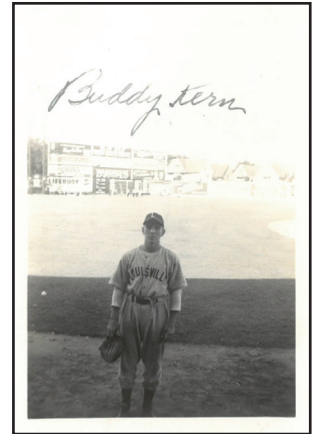
Allan and Anna Weiss collection on Kentucky businesses and institutions, ca. 1830s–1940s [Mss. A W431a] This collection consists of ephemeral documents printed for or mailed by Kentucky businesses and institutions. Most of the organizations represented were in Louisville, but others hail from throughout the state. A portion of the collection has been digitized and is available online. Follow the QR code to see more! (Donated by and cataloging funded by Allan and Anna Weiss)





... and
The
Bolshoi
Too!

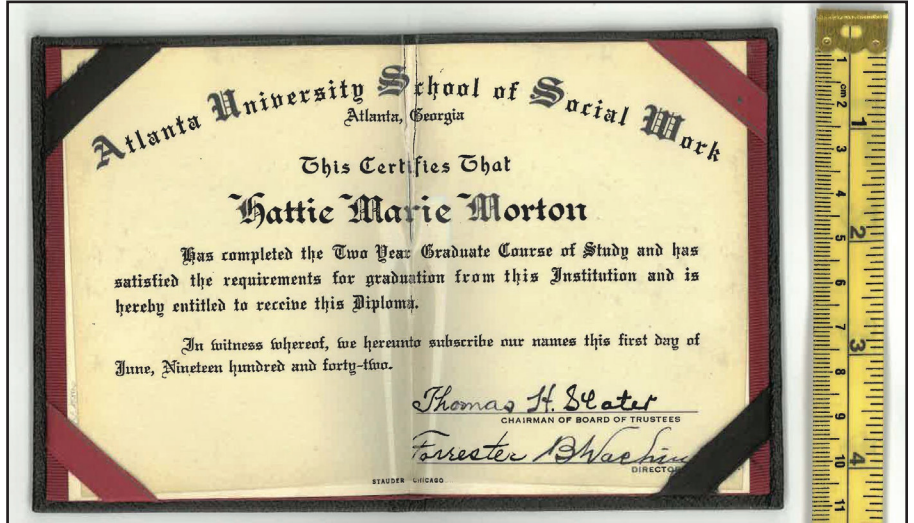
Louisville Ballet Records, 1944–2023, and Photograph Collection, 1979–2005 [Ms. BB L888j, 024PC25] Records include performance programs, mailers and fliers, financial and legal material, and material related to ballet productions throughout the years. The photograph collection includes photos of performances, rehearsals, outreach programs, and events. Pictured here are a photo of a school outreach program and a promotional mailer from the Ballet’s 1995–1996 season. (Donated by the Louisville Ballet)



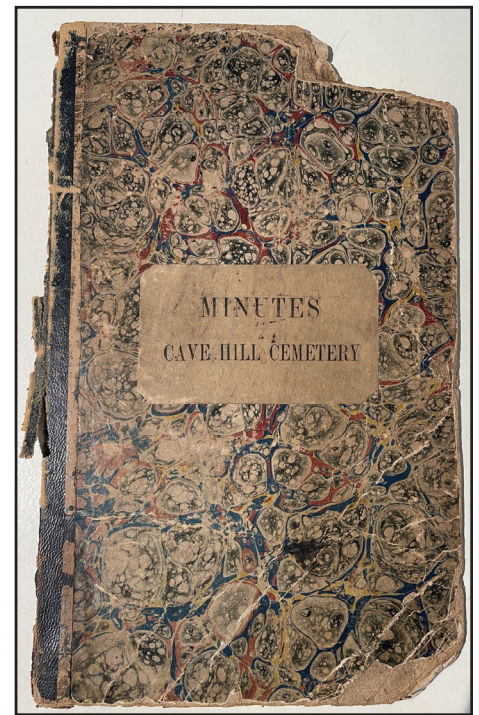
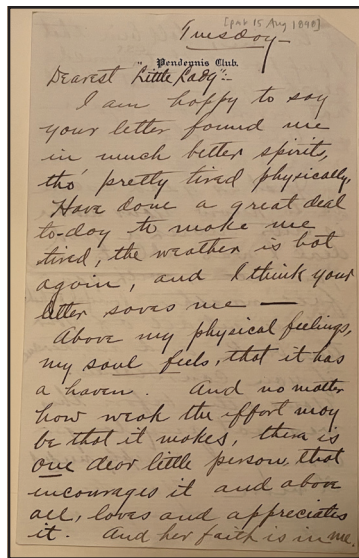
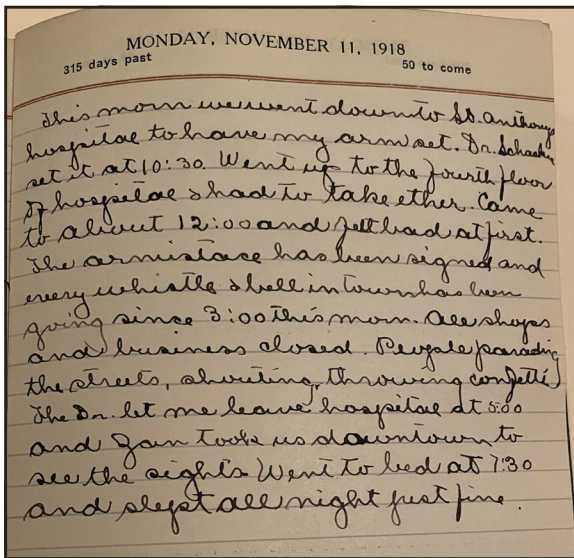
Louisville Colonels Baseball Team Photographs, ca. 1920s–1944 [025PC34] This small collection features 21 portrait photographs of Louisville Colonels Minor League Baseball players, primarily from the late 1920s. The Louisville Colonels were a prominent team throughout the 20th century, winning multiple pennants and developing future Hall of Famers such as Earle Combs, Pee Wee Reese, and Phil Niekro. After several MLB team affiliations and stadium changes, the organization relocated to Rhode Island in 1972. Professional baseball returned to Louisville in 1981 under a new organization called the Louisville Redbirds, now known as the Louisville Bats. (Purchase of the Filson Historical Acquisitions Fund)



Bingham Family Photographs, 1860–1990s [021PC5] The Bingham family were among Louisville’s most influential 20th-century families. George “Barry” Bingham Sr., born in Louisville in 1906, was the son of Judge Robert Worth Bingham, who bought *The Courier-Journal* and *Louisville Times* in 1918. This photograph collection documents the family and social lives of Barry Sr., his wife Mary Caperton, and their five children: Robert “Worth”, Barry Jr., Sarah “Sallie,” Jonathan, and Eleanor. The collection is also highlighted in a new online exhibit, *The Bingham family of Louisville*. Follow the QR code to explore the exhibit! (Donated by Eleanor Bingham Miller)



Hammonds-Morton Family Papers, 1860–2018 [Ms. A H225b] This collection consists of documents about the lives of members of the Morton-Hammonds family of Louisville, Kentucky. Prominent figures are Elmer Johnson Hammonds Sr. (1903-1987), father of Elmer Lucille Allen (b. 1931), and his second wife Thelma Morton-Hammonds (1904-2008). Pictured here is a miniature diploma presented to Hattie Marie Morton (1919-2018), sister of Thelma Morton-Hammonds, from the Atlanta University School of Social Work in 1942. (Donated by Elmer Lucille Allen)



Stewart-Ogden Family Papers, 1850–1991 [Mss. A S851a] Papers document the relationships, social activities, schooling, work, and travel of the Stewart and Ogden families of Louisville, with some material relating to the Carter family. The Carter and Stewart families were connected by the marriage of Anna Carter and businessman J. Adger Stewart in 1899. The collection centers on Anna and Adger and their children Carter, Alexander, and Jean, as well as on Jean's family after she married Louisville attorney Squire Ogden in 1934. Pictured here are a letter from Adger Stewart to Anna Carter dated 15 August 1898 and an entry from Jean Stewart's diary dated 11 November 1918. (Donated by Stewart Ogden)

Cave Hill Cemetery Minute Book, 1851–1877 [Mss. BB C378a] The minute book of the Board of Managers of the Cave Hill Cemetery Company contains 1851 and 1854 amendments to the charter and meeting minutes from 1858 and 1863–1877. The minutes address matters such as changes relating to board members and employees, the construction of new vaults, the purchase of additional land, the proposed extension of Broadway by the city of Louisville through Cave Hill grounds, improvements to the grounds, and finances and donations. (Donated by Stewart Ogden)



Here are a few of the many books that have recently been added to the Filson's library collection:

- *Queen of Bohemia Predicts her Own Death*, by Eve M. Kahn (Donated by the author)
- *Recipes and Recollections*, by the Westover Book Committee (Donated by Elmer Lucille Allen)
- *A Communion of the Spirits: African-American Quilters, Preservers, and Their Stories*, by Roland L. Freeman (Donated by Juanita White)
- *Teacher Journeys: Memories, Reflections, and Lessons from 20th-Century African American Educators*, by Rita Gilbert Greer, EdD (Donated by Juanita White)
- *Personal Memoirs of P.H. Sheridan* (Donated by Tad Myre)
- *Born to Coach: How Denny Crum Built the University of Louisville into a Basketball Powerhouse*, by Billy Reed (Donated by Tom Hardin)
- *Who's Who in Black Louisville: The Inaugural Edition*, edited by William E. McNulty Jr. (Donated by Juanita White)
- *The Books of American Negro Spirituals*, by James W. and J. Rosamond Johnson (Donated by Dr. Charles Mitchell)
- *George Graham Vest: The Life and Times of Dog's Best Friend*, by Stephen M. Vest (Donated by the author)

In Memory Susan Gray

(1942–2025)



Among her many contributions, the June 16, 1907, cover of *The Courier-Journal* was the last piece Susan left to The Filson.

Long time Filson supporter Susan Althaus Gray passed away July 21, 2025. While Susan was initially affiliated with the Filson as a member due to her love of history, she later joined the Filson staff in an administrative capacity, assisting Director Mark Wetherington and Deputy Director Judy Miller, and supporting the entire staff with accounts payable work. After stepping away from this role, Susan gave her time by volunteering at the Filson, working at the front desk and at special programs such as the House Tour. Most recently, Susan visited the Filson to attend programs. Susan was a consistent and generous supporter of the Filson, contributing not only to the annual fund but also to the growth of our collections - including books, ephemera, and even her own family papers. Susan's last gift to the Filson was delivered by her son, Jason, in September.

We cherish the memory of our former colleague, member, and friend.



Winter Closures at the Filson

The Filson Historical Society will be closed on the following days:

November 27-28 *Thanksgiving*

December 19 *Professional Development*

The Filson will be closed for holiday observance and professional development beginning December 24, 2025. We will reopen to the public on Tuesday, January 20, 2026.

Charles Raith

A Life in Architecture, Urban Planning, and Louisville's Built Heritage

By Zachary Keown, Special Collections Assistant

Charles Stephen Raith was born in St. Louis, Missouri, on October 7, 1952, to Charlotte Thuenen Raith and Julius “Jul” Edwin Raith, Jr., a wholesale grocer whose career dictated a childhood of movement. The Raith family, which included Charles’s two younger brothers, Peter and David, relocated frequently throughout the Midwest and South, living in various states including Missouri, Louisiana, Texas, and Kansas.

The family’s travels ceased permanently in the summer of 1970 when, following Charles’s junior year of high school, they settled in Louisville, Kentucky. This move to the Ohio Valley would prove to be pivotal, marking the city where Raith would establish his professional legacy. Following high school, Charles Raith pursued a formal education in architecture, obtaining his degree from the University of Cincinnati. Upon graduation in 1977, he returned to Louisville, embarking

on what would become a decades-long career focused on architecture and urban design.

Raith’s career began as a staff architect on the Jefferson County Government Center’s revitalization and renovation of the historic Jefferson County Courthouse for the Jefferson County Archives and Records Service from 1977 to 1978. Over the course of his career, Raith worked at several firms and city departments including Bickel-Gibson Associates, the Department of Housing Rehabilitations, his own firm, the Kremer Group Architects (later the Weyland-Kremer Group, which merged with Louis & Henry, Inc.), the Louisville Development Authority, and finally John Milner Associates. His range of work involved public housing, historic preservation, urban design, neighborhood planning, among other accomplishments.

The early 1980s marked Charles Raith’s first documented involvement with Christ

Church Cathedral, which would become a recurring subject of his work. The historic downtown church was a setting for both his personal and professional life; it was through the Cathedral that he met his future husband, Sam Dorr, and where he became professionally involved in the preservation and renovation of the Cathedral and the nearby properties. His work extended to the historic Howard-Hardy House and the development of the Cathedral Commons Apartments.

The exact date the Howard-Hardy House was constructed is unknown, but it was likely built shortly after Nathaniel Hardy and Charlotte Hardy, née Howard, acquired the lot where they constructed the house in 1834. The house represents 1830s architecture, including the only known remaining residence with associated quarters for enslaved African Americans in downtown Louisville.¹ Nathaniel and Charlotte Hardy

¹ “National Register of Historic Places Nomination: Howard-Hardy House,” 2004, Charles Raith Architectural Papers [Mss. AR R161a], The Filson Historical Society, Louisville, Kentucky.



Charles Raith, 1952–. Architectural Papers, circa 1970s–2010 [Mss. AR R161a] The Howard-Hardy House before Miller’s Cafeteria was demolished and the house was restored.



Charles Raith, 1952–. Architectural Papers, circa 1970s–2010 [Mss. AR R161a] A drawing of the planned final state for the Howard-Hardy House. The Cathedral Commons Apartments are also depicted on the right.



Charles Raith, 1952–. Architectural Papers, circa 1970s–2010 [Mss. AR R161a] The front view of the Howard-Hardy House post-restoration.



Charles Raith, 1952-. Architectural Papers, circa 1970s–2010 [Mss. AR R161a] An aerial view of the gallery on the rear wing of the restored Howard-Hardy House.

enslaved between three and ten African Americans over the time they resided in the Howard-Hardy House, including Frank, Robert, and Mary Slaughter. Nathaniel, the joint owner of a hardware business in downtown Louisville, suffered financial difficulties in the early 1840s and he and his wife sold the property to John Howard, Charlotte's father, for \$12,000. The Hardy family continued to live on the property even after the death of Nathaniel in 1848. In 1866, the house was sold to a local attorney, Patrick Joyes, for a combined total of \$16,000 in cash and promissory notes. Joyes lived in the Howard-Hardy House for most of the remainder of his life with his family and eight African American domestic servants based on the 1870 census. Joyes kept possession of the property until his death in 1904, whereupon it was sold to Rudolph W. Miller, Sr. for \$8,250 in cash and promissory notes.

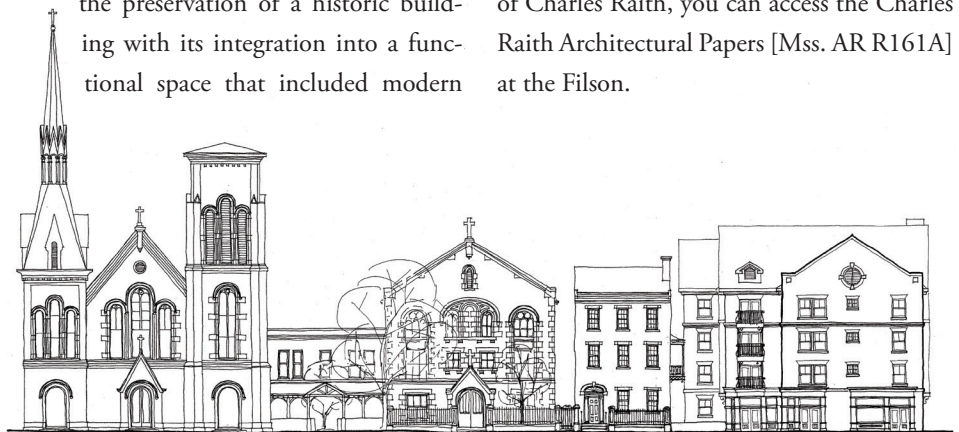
By this time, the surrounding area had become known for boarding houses that lodged Louisville Medical School students. The Millers similarly repurposed the Howard-Hardy House, before adding a cafeteria to the building. Miller's Cafeteria, as it came to be known, served students and locals for most of the twentieth century until it closed in 1998. Martha Miller, the daughter of Rudolph and Beatrice Miller, sold the property to the Bishop, Dean, and Chapter of Christ Church Cathedral in 1999 for \$700,000.



Charles Raith, 1952-. Architectural Papers, circa 1970s–2010 [Mss. AR R161a] From left to right, the Christ Church Cathedral, the Howard-Hardy House, and the Cathedral Commons Apartments.

It was during this period that Raith contributed to the restoration of the Howard-Hardy House, one of the last remaining houses in the surrounding area built during the nineteenth century residential expansion. The extension for Miller's Cafeteria was demolished in 2004 to return the house to its original state. Raith's historic preservation experience guided the restoration, which meticulously addressed the building's deterioration and wear while preserving its essential historic character.

Additionally, Raith assisted with the Christ Church Cathedral's construction of the Cathedral Commons Apartments. The Cathedral Commons Apartments, built on the lot adjacent to the Howard-Hardy House, was designed to complement the restored historic structure of the house while also addressing a community need for affordable housing. This approach combined the preservation of a historic building with its integration into a functional space that included modern



Charles Raith, 1952-. Architectural Papers, circa 1970s–2010 [Mss. AR R161a] A West Elevation schematic of the Cathedral Commons campus, depicting the Christ Church Cathedral, the Howard-Hardy House, and the Cathedral Commons Apartments.



Charles Raith, 1952-. Architectural Papers, circa 1970s–2010 [Mss. AR R161a] The shared courtyard of the Howard-Hardy House and the Cathedral Commons Apartments.

residential units. As of 2025, the Howard-Hardy House serves as a boutique hotel in Downtown Louisville, and the Cathedral Commons Apartments continues to offer affordable housing to the community.

Through his work on the Howard-Hardy House and the Cathedral Commons, alongside his many other projects over his career, Charles Raith contributed to Louisville's urban landscape. His approach combined historical research with urban planning, joining the preservation of historic structures with the development of new community assets. This work showed how historic buildings and new construction could coexist within the same urban space. His career reflects a focus on the built environment and the role of architectural heritage in the city's development. To learn more about the work of Charles Raith, you can access the Charles Raith Architectural Papers [Mss. AR R161A] at the Filson.

Out of Storage and On the Road

Loans from the Filson's Collection

By Kelly Hyberger, Director of Curatorial Affairs

Did you know that at any given time, only a small fraction of the Filson's vast collection is on public display? In our storage rooms, we have thousands of documents, photographs, and historic artifacts that help us tell the stories of the Ohio Valley. Patrons can visit the Filson during our open hours and request to see any item from our collection. We also have a robust temporary exhibition program that allows us to share our collections with visitors to our campus.

Loans are another important way to spread our reach beyond the physical boundaries of our Old Louisville campus. There are almost always dozens of objects, documents, or images from our collections

on exhibition at our partner institutions. Having an object on exhibition can potentially reach hundreds, if not thousands of visitors. Right now, the Filson has eighteen active outgoing loans comprising seventy-two artifacts. This number is always changing as exhibitions close and new loans are sent out to our partners.

Most of the Filson's outgoing loans are to partner museums right here in Louisville, but occasionally we also send artifacts out of state and even internationally. Last year, our team shipped a portrait of Gertrude McKelvey Cawein (1873–1918) painted in 1908 by Eric Pape (1870–1938) to the Hammond Castle Museum in Gloucester,



Case of loaned objects from the Filson on display in *Line by Line* at the Portland Museum



Filson team members and Cave Hill staff hanging a portrait of Judge Robert Worth Bingham (1871–1937) in the Cave Hill Foundation Board Room. Judge Bingham is interred at Cave Hill Cemetery.



Custom crating is often required when large and delicate objects are sent long distances. This portrait of Gertrude Cawein was secured to a wooden frame, which was then packed into a crate for safe shipping to Massachusetts.

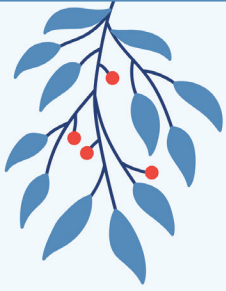
Massachusetts. Next month, we will be sending a photograph of architect Bruce Goff's (1904–1982) studio taken by Ernest Ellison (1924–2010) to the Art Institute of Chicago. We were especially excited to send a watercolor and gouache by Cecil Beaton (1904–1980) titled “Mr. and Mrs. Harrison Williams in their Palm Beach Home, 1936” to London in September to be featured in an exhibition at the National Portrait Gallery, London. The Filson is thrilled to have this opportunity to share our collections with museum visitors from around the world. Known as “The Kentucky Countess,” Mrs. Harrison Williams is none other than Mona von Bismark. Born in Louisville in 1897, Mona is known as one of the 20th century’s most influential style icons. Her third husband, Harrison Williams, was reportedly the richest man in America in the 1920s. She became Countess Mona von Bismarck after later marrying the grandson of Chancellor Otto von Bismarck.

Locally, the Filson was equally excited to be a major lender to the Portland Museum’s recent exhibition, *Line by Line: The Community Makers & Messengers of Louisville Print History*. This exhibition showcased the community voices that led over 100 years of print history in Louisville, and it featured nineteen different original newspapers and publications from the Filson’s collection.

You can also see Filson objects on exhibition right now at the Frazier History Museum, the Speed Art Museum, and Oxmoor Farm. If you’re able to visit the Vintage Fire Museum and Safety Center in Jeffersonville, IN, you can even see a mid-19th century hand pumper on loan from the Filson. Purchased by the Louisville Veterans Volunteer Firemen’s Association in 1895, this pressure volume pumper took 20 men to operate.



“Mr. and Mrs. Harrison Williams in their Palm Beach Home, 1936,” watercolor and gouache on water paper by Cecil Beaton (1904–1980)



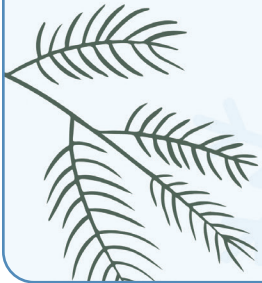
Historical Society
THE Filson
 Since 1884



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BLACK HOMECOMING

Kentucky Kinship in Photography

On view in the Filson's Nash Gallery
 September 19, 2025 - April 3, 2026

Family is the social foundation of the Black experience. *Black Homecoming: Kentucky Kinship in Photography* celebrates Black families, traditional and non-traditional, genetic and chosen. Through photographs from the Filson's archive, explore how Black Kentuckians intertwined family with community and built kinship beyond the confines of blood relations. *Black Homecoming* invites viewers to reflect on the complexity of family and the importance of connection.

To learn more about exhibits at the
 Filson, please visit our website:



Image: Frank Stanley and Vivian Clarke Stanley,
 ca. 1960s



BUSTLES TO BLUE JEANS

Highlights from the Filson's Fashion Archive

Bustles to Blue Jeans: Highlights from the Filson's Fashion Archive opened in April and quickly became one of the Filson's most popular exhibits. To allow more guests the opportunity to explore the gallery, we have chosen to extend the exhibit's dates. *Bustles to Blue Jeans* will now be open to the public until August 7, 2026.

The Filson's museum collection contains over 5,000 garments from as early as the 1810s worn for every occasion: Victorian weddings and roaring '20s parties, baseball games and cycling trips. Yet the public has only been able to view a tiny fraction of the Filson's fashion archive over the years—just an occasional peek in the closet.

With *Bustles to Blue Jeans*, we've opened the closets wide. This exhibit shows off some of our most unusual, storied, and beautiful garments—from ball gowns to bathing costumes, bustles to blue jeans.

EXTENDED DATES

NOW OPEN THROUGH AUGUST 7, 2026

This exhibit is generously
sponsored by:

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SINCE 1904

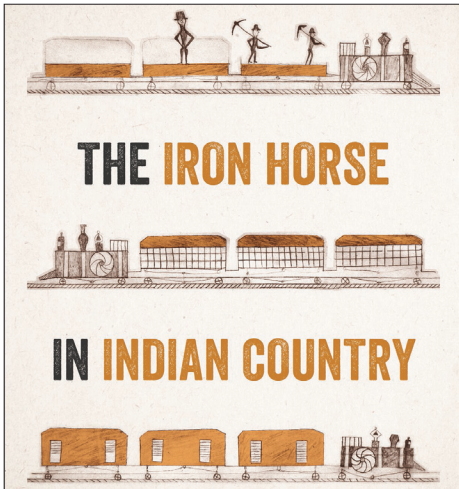
2026 Program Preview

Visit filsonhistorical.org for more information and to register.

FEB. 19

Dine & Dialogue - *The Iron Horse in Indian Country*
Alessandra La Rocca Link, Ph.D.

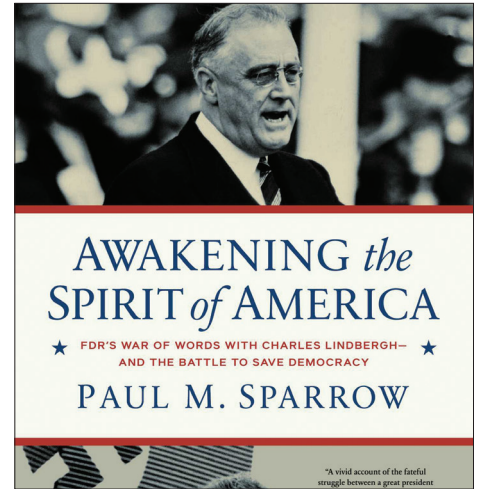
Join us as we examine the relationships between Indigenous peoples and railroads that unfolded in the American West during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries with Dr. Alessandra La Rocca Link.



MAR. 31

The Gertrude Polk Brown Lecture Series - *Awakening the Spirit of America* - Paul Sparrow

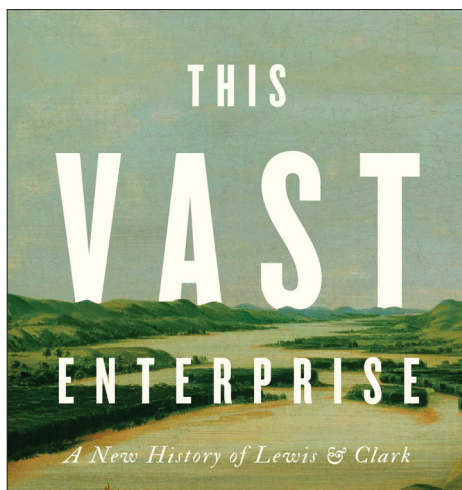
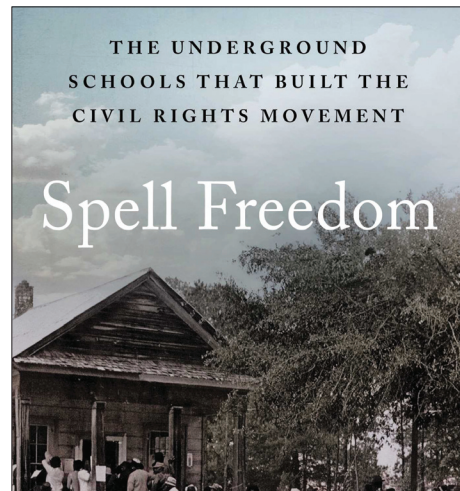
A powerful new work of history that brings President Roosevelt, his allies, and his adversaries to life as he fought to transform America from an isolationist bystander into the world's first superpower.



APR. 23

Dine & Dialogue - *Spell Freedom* - Elaine Weiss

The acclaimed author of the “stirring, definitive, and engrossing” (NPR) *The Woman's Hour* returns with the story of four activists whose audacious plan to restore voting rights to Black Americans laid the groundwork for the Civil Rights Movement.



MAY 14

The James J. Holmberg Lecture Series - *This Vast Enterprise* - Craig Fehrman

In the epic tradition of Stephen Ambrose's *Undaunted Courage*, *This Vast Enterprise* offers a bold new take on the Lewis and Clark expedition, humanizing forgotten figures and shattering long-held myths about one of the most beloved episodes in American history.

JULY 21

The Future of Lincoln Studies

In Spring 2026, *Ohio Valley History* journal will feature a collection of thought-provoking articles on the future of Lincoln in American historical scholarship, popular culture, and memory. To commemorate this special issue of the journal, the Filson Historical Society will convene a roundtable discussion with leading experts and authors.

The Filson Historical Society presents

America 250: A History Full of Futures

The Filson Historical Society is proud to present a portion of our 2026 Programming Calendar. This schedule of community dialogues, panel discussions, and scholarly presentations commemorates the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States through three themes. The Filson's unique and independent Programming is designed to encourage safe-spaces around important topics from our collective history that continue to have relevance in our contemporary society.

The Filson also seeks to inspire our audiences and attendees to action and allyship based on a holistic and thoughtful exploration and understanding of historical events, individuals, and places. The entire team at the Filson is excited to welcome our members, friends, and families to our Program offerings for 2026.

E PLURIBUS UNUM: *From many, one.*

The Filson has been the trusted keeper for the stories of our region for more than 140 years. Now more than ever, it is imperative we preserve and protect the stories of our past, present, and future. As the region's most independent historic and contemporary voice, the Filson reflects on the diverse and inclusive stories of the many people, places, and events that have shaped our Union.

LA BELLE RIVIÈRE

French explorer Robert de La Salle deemed the Ohio "The Beautiful River" in 1669. This superlative lives on today through the beauty of the rich cultural and artistic communities throughout the region. The Filson celebrates art, music, food, and landscape through key community partnerships, elevating historic and modern cultural expressions that activate the founding principles of our nation. This coincides with Handwork 2026, a nationwide effort to spotlight the importance of original handcrafted work and the diversity of makers and making.

PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS

This forward-looking statement that is coupled in its era by the Constitution seeking a "more perfect Union" in which liberty could be secured "to ourselves and our Posterity" reflects our nation's on-going struggles for full inalienable rights across all our communities. The Filson presents a deep investigation of our past and a creative contemporary dialogue with our community about civics, economics, creativity, and individual identity in the 21st century. We have a history full of futures.

Historical Society
THE Filson

The Filsonians

July – October 2025

1884 Society Level Memberships

YORK Membership | \$10,000

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Lindy B. Street
Mary and Orme Wilson

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Victoria Phillips, Ph.D. and Travis Anderson
Helen Condon Powell
Ellen B. and Carl M. Thomas
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Ann and Darrell Wells
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Join the

THRUSTON
LEGACY
CIRCLE

Make a Planned Gift to the Filson



Fiber artist and former Community History Fellow Marcos Morales speaks to participants at the Fiber Arts Workshop on October 25, 2025.

Over the past 141 years, the Filson has evolved from a small historical society into the dynamic, community-focused institution it is today. Throughout that time, the Filson has been privately supported, and our success is due almost entirely to generations of individuals who have recognized the importance of our mission to collect, preserve, and share the history and culture of Kentucky and the Ohio Valley. Much of that enduring support has come through planned giving, which provides vital long-term resources that safeguard the Filson's future.

Legacy gifts ensure that this work continues for generations to come. By including the Filson in your estate plans, you help secure the institution's long-term stability and sustain its ability to serve our community in perpetuity. Your foresight ensures that the stories, ideas, and lessons of our shared past will continue to educate and inspire far into the future.

If you have already included the Filson in your estate plans, we invite you to join the **Thruston Legacy Circle**, a group of dedicated supporters whose investment helps secure the Filson's future. To share your plans or learn more, please contact **Brenna Cundiff, Director of Development**, at 502-635-7108 or brenna@filsonhistorical.org

If you are considering making a planned gift to the Filson, we encourage you to speak with your estate planning professional and reach out to our Development Office.

We would be honored to welcome you to the Circle.

Ways to Make a Planned Gift:

• **Bequests Under Wills**

Include the Filson in your will to make a lasting impact.

• **Gifts from Retirement Plans**

Name the Filson as a beneficiary of your retirement plan, such as an IRA or 401(k).

• **Gifts of Life Insurance Proceeds**

Designate the Filson as a full or partial beneficiary under an existing or new life insurance policy.

**Learn
More** ▶





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.

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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Judith Bloor and David Brandt

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**Deceased*

✨ *Life & Legacy program donor supporting the Jewish Community Archive at the Filson.*

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