

VOLUME XXVI • ISSUE I



KENTUCKY
GATEWAY
MUSEUM
CENTER

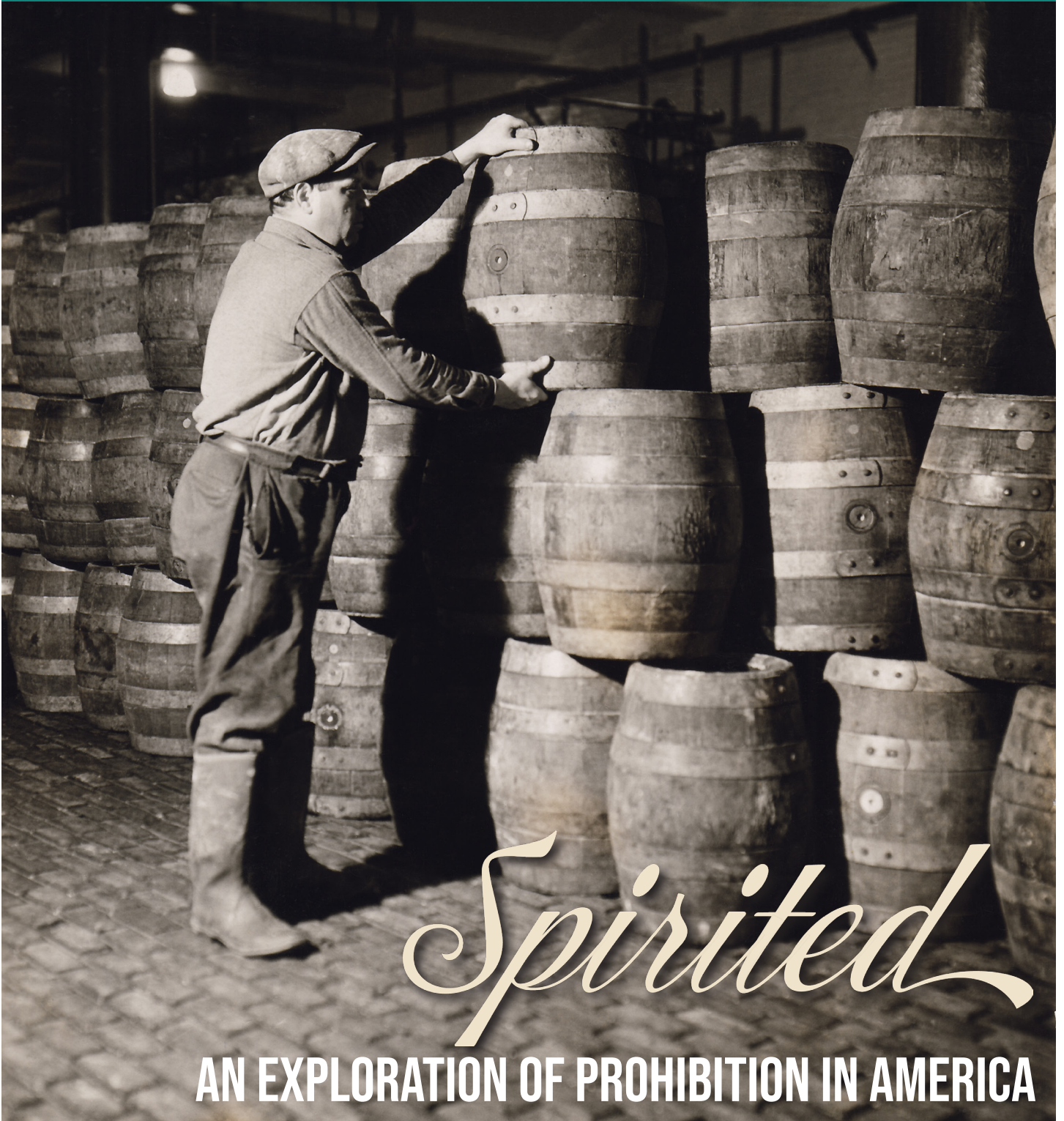
Messenger

KYGMC

HOME OF THE KSB MINIATURES COLLECTION
& THE OLD POGUE EXPERIENCE

MAYSVILLE, KENTUCKY

WINTER/JANUARY 2021



Spirited

AN EXPLORATION OF PROHIBITION IN AMERICA

THE VIEW FROM SECOND AND SUTTON

Happy New Year 2021 from your Museum Staff, Trustees and Volunteers! We have just completed a most difficult year for our community, state and nation in dealing with the pandemic and yet it was a positive year for our Museum, a great year in 2020 of exhibits and educational activities for our schools and community. The new year is an ideal time to express our appreciation for the support of members, patrons and guests that continue to support and fund the Museum Center. As we enter into this new beginning of 2021, it's a great time to discover our many exhibits for the first time or revisit once again the treasures of the Museum Center.

We are planning our **Annual Charter Celebration** to be held on **Thursday February 28** as part of the *Spirited: Prohibition in America* exhibit. This exciting feature exhibit for winter 2021 is produced by the *National Endowment for the Humanities*. The **Charter Celebration** will be held at the *Maysville Country Club* following all the COVID-19 health and safety protocols. The Celebration marks the anniversary of the March 1, 1878 Charter of the *Maysville and Mason County Library, Historical and Scientific Association* by the Commonwealth of Kentucky. It's a time of reflection and thanksgiving as we celebrate the oldest chartered museum in Kentucky.

During the Celebration event the Museum will unveil the newest Steve White painting that is in the Museum Collection. The oil painting is of the

ocean-going ship, *The Maysville*. The painting highlights the ship building craft of the early 1800's along the Ohio River.

The *Charter Celebration* will feature a 1920's theme with **Mike Morgan as George Remus, the King of the Bootleggers** during the American Prohibition, telling the rise and fall story of his life. The special entertainment presentation tells one of the most bizarre courtroom dramas in American History as Remus chose to represent himself against famed Prosecutor Charles P. Taft II in his capital murder case.

Sunday afternoon March 7, the Museum will sponsor a **1920's Fashion Show**, featuring numerous pieces from our museum collection and historical collections from the region. This will be one of many special programs and seminars as part of the *Spirited: Prohibition in America* exhibit. Please check our webpage regularly and follow the Museum on Facebook for the latest updates on the programs during the winter and spring months.

The second floor of the *Wormald Building* during the winter months will feature **Tea Cups and Tools** showcasing items from our collection, curated by Marla Toncray. The concept of this exhibit is to highlight the everyday tools used by both women and men at home, on the farm, and at work. Some of the featured items include: a mid-1800s

lawn mower once owned by James Wormald; a portable writing desk from the Gertrude Collins estate; vintage shaving tools; an 1850's surgical kit; antique curling irons; and of course, tea cups. *The Wormald Galleries* continues to showcase our rich and varied history of farms, schools, businesses and the life of the citizens of our region. Come and visit the historic displays in 2021. Revisit the history of our corner of the world.

The Old Pogue Experience continues to bring visitors from around the world to see the many items documenting our rich Bourbon history. **The KSB Miniatures Gallery** is ever changing with new miniature scenes and displays from Kaye Browning's vast miniatures collection. *The KSB Miniatures* staff change the displays each season featuring new artistic works for members and guests.

I appreciate your support of the museum by your visits, words of encouragement to our staff and financial support during this very different and difficult year dealing with the pandemic situation. **It's going to be a great new year!** Take some time during the new year and visit your Museum as you rediscover the treasures on Second and Sutton Street. Thank you for being a member and have a very blessed New Year!

C.J. Hunter IV,
Executive Director


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Staff Spotlight:

TRACEY DOUGLAS GIFT SHOP COORDINATOR

Q: When did you start at Kentucky Gateway Museum Center?

A: I've been working at the museum since March.

Q: What do you enjoy most about your job with KYGMC?

A: I really enjoy working with the staff. Everyone is very supportive, and they all work very hard to make the museum a special place for our community.

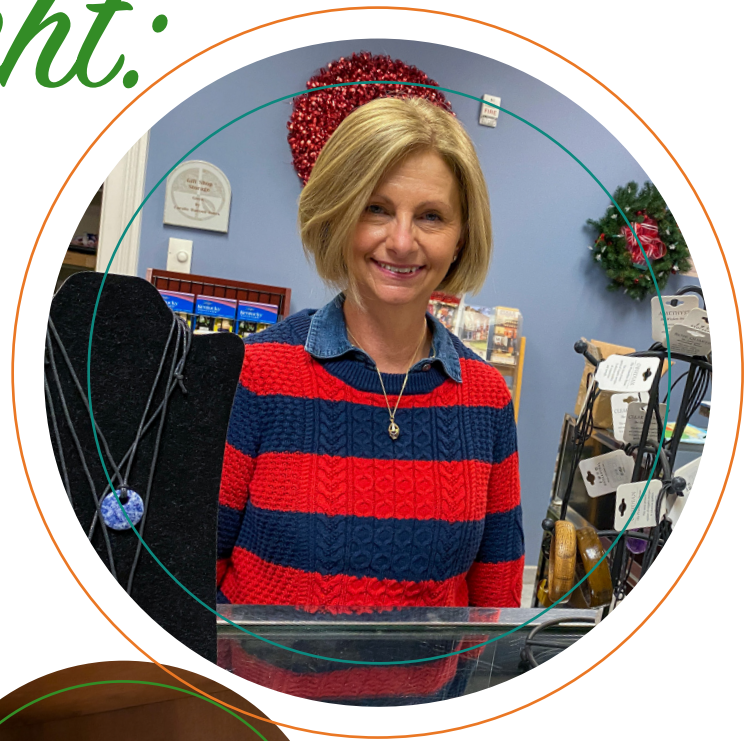
Q: What are some of your favorite items available at the Atrium Gift Shop right now?

A: Some of my favorite items are the Blenko Glass pieces, the Grandville Pottery, and the Branch and Barrel jewelry.

Q: Can you tell me a little bit about these pieces?

A: Every piece of the Blenko Glass is handblown in Milton, WV. We have a nice selection of Grandville Pottery, personalized with Maysville and the Simon Kenton Bridge. Branch and Barrel jewelry is handmade from sterling silver and bourbon barrels in Oregon, and the company plants a tree for every piece sold.

Thank you for your kindness and hardwork Tracey! All of the KYGMC staff, trustees, and members appreciate you more than you know. Visit Tracey today at the Atrium Gift Shop! She is a wealth of information about all of the great items available in the gift shop as well as the exhibits and collections around the museum center.



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NATIONALLY TOURING EXHIBITION,

Spirited

PROHIBITION IN AMERICA

COMES TO KYGMC IN 2021!

By Marla Toncray

During the era of Prohibition, Americans no longer could manufacture, sell, or transport intoxicating beverages from 1920 until 1933. *Spirited: Prohibition in America*, a new exhibition opening January 28, 2021 at KYGMC Calvert Exhibit Gallery explores this tumultuous time in American history, when flappers and suffragists, bootleggers and temperance lobbyists, and legends, such as Al Capone and Carry Nation, took sides in this battle against the bottle.

Organized by the National Constitution Center, Philadelphia, PA, in partnership with Mid-America Arts Alliance, Kansas City, MO, *Spirited: Prohibition in America* explores the era of Prohibition, when America went “dry.” Visitors will learn about the complex issues that led America to adopt Prohibition

through the 18th Amendment to the Constitution in 1919 until its repeal through the 21st Amendment in 1933. Through the exhibition, visitors will learn about the amendment process, the changing role of liquor in American culture, Prohibition’s impact on the roaring ‘20s, and the role of women, and how current liquor laws vary from state to state.



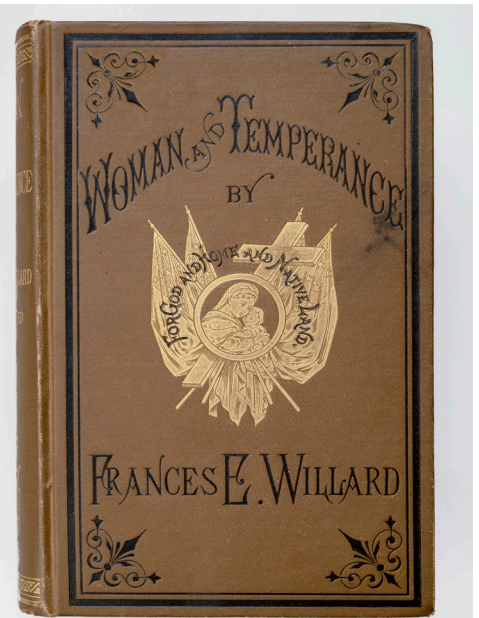
Happy Days Are Here Again
Shot Glass, c. 1933, glass,
3 x 1 3/4 x 1 3/4 inches,
private collection. Image:
E.G. Schempf.

In 1830, the average American consumed 90 bottles—or about four shots a day—of

80-proof liquor each year. Saloons gained notoriety as the most destructive force in American culture, where men would drink away their families’ money. Following extensive campaigning and lobbying by the Anti-Saloon League along with groups representing women’s suffrage and the Woman’s Christian Temperance Union, on January 16, 1919, the 18th Amendment to the Constitution was ratified, and beginning January 17, 1920, Americans could no longer manufacture, sell, or transport intoxicating beverages. However, the Volstead Act, the law enforcing the amendment, made exceptions for sacramental, medicinal, and industrial purposes as well as allowing families to “preserve fruit” through fermentation.

In the years following, the country was split between “wets” and “drys,” speakeasies flourished, legal authorities gave chase to gangsters, and many created inventive ways to circumvent the law. Governmental agencies, including the Prohibition Bureau and the Justice Department, charged with enforcing the Volstead Act were ill equipped to deal with the flood of illegal booze. Along with rampant law breaking, Prohibition brought unexpected cultural and societal shifts from the development of mixed-gendered speakeasies to the growth of organized crime syndicated into national enterprises.

The exhibition draws on the histories told from both sides of this divisive issue that riled passions and



Left: Erickson's Bar, Portland, Oregon, c. 1910s-1920s, black-and-white photograph, courtesy Lake Oswego Public Library.
 Right: Frances E. Willard, *Women and Temperance*, 1884, paper and ink, 8 1/4 x 6 x 2 inches, private collection. Image: E.G. Schempf.

created volatile situations. In the end, after a decade of wide-spread corruption, wavering public opinion, and the need to generate revenue from an alcohol tax, the 18th Amendment became the first ever repealed. With the passing of the 21st Amendment, Prohibition ended on December 5, 1933 to a very different America. Today, Prohibition's legacy can be traced through state laws regulating alcohol, created to avoid the excesses before Prohibition and the corruption and lawlessness experienced during the roaring '20s.

In addition to the national story of Prohibition, KYGMC is curating a companion exhibit and special programming that will focus on Mason County's history during the tumultuous era.

For example, George Manning of Maysville was a federal revenue agent charged with raiding bootlegging stills, speakeasies and other illegal activities in eastern Kentucky. One of the most notorious incidents of his career was the shooting of an innocent boy who happened to be in the car with this bootlegging father, who was involved in a car chase in Maysville with Manning. During his career, Manning collected news articles about his career and created a scrapbook to house those articles. Luckily, that scrapbook is now in the possession of the KYGMC Research Library and excerpts will be included in this local exhibit.

We also invite our members to three special events; the **2021 KYGMC Charter Celebration**, which will

have a 1920's theme and George Remus presentation; a ***Museum Seminar with Peter Pogue***, president of *Old Pogue Distillery*, based in Maysville; and a **1920's Fashion Show** to be hosted in March.

Spirited: Prohibition in America is based on the exhibition *American Spirits: The Rise and Fall of Prohibition*, organized by the National Constitution Center in Philadelphia, PA, in collaboration with Daniel Okrent, author of *Last Call: The Rise and Fall of Prohibition*. *Spirited* has been made possible through NEH on the Road, a special initiative of the National Endowment for the Humanities. It has been adapted and toured by Mid-America Arts Alliance. Founded in 1972, Mid-America Arts Alliance is the oldest regional nonprofit arts organization in the United States. For more information, visit www.maaa.org or www.nehontheroad.org.



Prohibition, Detroit, 1919, black-and-white photograph, courtesy Walter P. Reuther Library, Wayne State University.



feature 22 rooms filled with historically accurate fine-scale furniture. Not one to turn down a challenge, he gave it a try by making a couple dressers and a table.

Intrigued by scale, he then began working on the side perfecting his miniature techniques. Before long his work was being featured in London and, well, the rest is history.

Michael's career with full-size antiques continues to inspire his work in miniature. His biggest muse is visiting English country homes and estates to study the furnishings. "I see that each piece of furniture has a role and a history," he says, "That it's made with the highest quality of construction and that it is a beautiful form of art." Of special interest to him are the pieces that are not only beautiful but functional, like this 19th century Georgian mahogany rent table.

Miniature of the Month

By Kaye Browning

Rent Table by Michael Walton

Off a busy street in Chicago, in the largest Polish community outside of Poland, is a 1920s brick storefront with an Irish flag hanging proudly. On the window is a single word: Woodshop. Not too long ago, the sight prompted a curious reporter to park her car and take a peek inside. And what she found amazed her—a man with an Irish brogue who made perfectly scaled reproductions of tiny furniture—Michael Walton. It all made for a great story but, truth be told, miniaturists have been amazed with the master craftsman's work for years. Just as interesting is how it all came to be.

"After technical school in Dublin, Ireland, I started working as a furniture restorer for a prestigious antique shop," explains Michael. "I spent eight years there crafting my trade as a restorer of 18th century furniture and maker of fine furniture of the same period." While there, he was asked if he could possibly create 1/12-scale furniture for Tara's Palace, a miniature castle that would

The original's purpose was to collect rent from tenants who would drop their money into the appropriately lettered drawer which emptied into a lock box at the base of the table. "The rent table as a full-size piece was very complicated and even more challenging to replicate in one-inch scale," he says. "It looks like a leather-top drum table, but by pushing down the center of the table it creates a locking system. It's designed with eight working frieze drawers with an inlaid alphabet index per drawer and the table base features a door that conceals three more working drawers." Complicated indeed.

Other works by Michael can be seen throughout the KSB Miniatures Collection including a demilune commode and serving table made with period mahogany and ebony, boxwood, and amboyna veneers. He created the sunburst chair in *Spencer House*, as well as a full-size version of it which sits outside the rotunda.

The 19th century Georgian mahogany rent table can be found in the Wm. R. Robertson Fine Arts Rotunda in the display of mechanical and functional furniture.

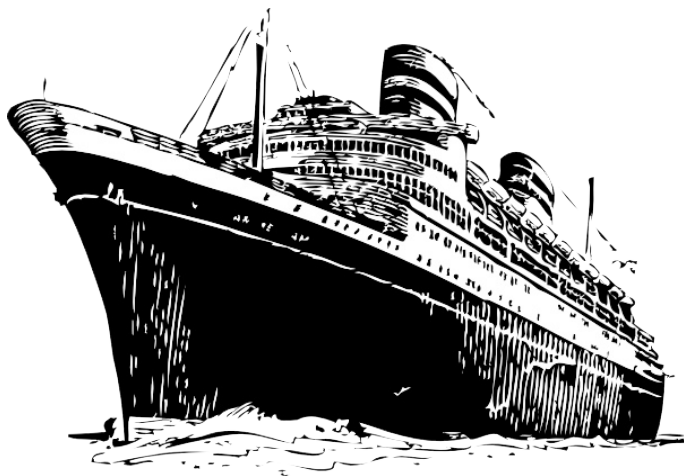
Education Escapades

BY TANDY NASH

Did you know the Carpathia was responsible for picking up the only survivors from the Titanic after it hit the fatal iceberg on a cold April night? It was sunk by a German U-boat during the First World War while her crew was saved at the last minute by the HMS Snowdrop. The Normandie burned while being transformed into a troopship for WWII. Was it really due to a negligent welder who sent sparks into nearby life vests, or was it a German Saboteur or possibly the mob trying to get Lucky Luciano out of prison by striking a deal with the navy? The Queen Mary transported celebrities like Bob Hope and Clark Gable, royalty like the Duke and Duchess of Windsor and dignitaries like Winston Churchill. In fact, Churchill would sign the D-Day Declaration aboard the Queen. These are just some of the interesting facts that will be 'sailing' your way.

Museum Education is expanding into the community with model ships given to our collection by Ashley and Barbara Ford. KYGMC is proud to showcase ships sailing to other ports: the Carpathia will dock at Flemingsburg Library, Normandie in Mason County High School and The Queen Mary will harbor in the Ripley Public Library in the beginning of 2021. We will also have our first Virtual Lesson Plan ready for use. Based on the "Diverse Governments of the World" specifically requested by Straub Elementary teachers, it could easily be used for middle and high school students. There is a very comprehensive video featuring the museum's own historian, Tim Douglas. Tim discusses the major governments from Oligarchy to Monarchy and representative countries from each example. Games and activities have been designed to reinforce how processes, rules and laws influence how individuals are governed and how world diverse communities address problems, maintain order and keep people safe. It should be available on our website after the first of the year.

If there are lessons or educational standards that you would like KYGMC to address in order to enhance your units of study, please email education@kygmc.org or call Tandy Nash at 606-564-5865. You will be surprised at the activities and artifacts we can provide!



KYGMC Registrar Sharon Art handles the 1785 French Edition of John Filson's *Histoire de Kentucke* with care; Here she is showcasing the map of Kentucky.

KYGMC ACQUISITIONS: John Filson's *Histoire de Kentucke*

Earlier in 2020, KYGMC acquired gifts of several very significant and rare historical books and artifacts for its collections.

The most significant and rarest acquisition is the Parisian 1785 French edition of John Filson's "*Histoire de Kentucke*," complete with its own French language version of Filson's extremely rare map of Kentucky, published in Wilmington in 1784. This book also contains Filson's highly imaginative version of Daniel Boone's life in Kentucky.

Filson lived an extremely eventful life before traveling to Kentucky from Pennsylvania in the early 1780s. A soldier in the American Revolution, British prisoner, schoolteacher and surveyor, he somehow acquired, according to a biography, "over 13,000 acres of western lands and moved to Kentucky" toward the end of 1782 or early 1783. Settling in Lexington, he taught school, surveyed land claims, and traveled the region, leading to his writing "The Discovery, Settlement and Present State of Kentucke", published in Wilmington, DE, and the creation of the first noted map of Kentucky, eight years before it joined the Union in 1792. The map was published separately, but sold with the book for \$1.50.

The French edition followed almost immediately; a German edition was published in 1790, and an English edition in 1793, of which KYGMC also owns a copy. Filson is reported to have written several other books when he was not involved in a failed effort to start a seminary, and numerous lawsuits.

Also of interest to our area is that Filson had bought an interest in a tract of land that was the future site of Cincinnati, founded by a group of Maysvillians. However, nearly a year after the group floated downriver to found the town, first named Losantiville, whose survey and plan of the town served the founders, Filson, while on a survey east of the town was captured and killed by Shawnee Indians.

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NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
PERMIT NO. 12

To:

or Current Resident

PLEASE NOTE

In an effort to keep our staff and guests safe and healthy during this time,
masks and temperature checks are required while visiting the museum.

Thank you for your understanding.

Spirited



PROHIBITION IN AMERICA



ON DISPLAY JANUARY 28TH - MARCH 13TH



KENTUCKY
GATEWAY
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Cover Image: Man stacking barrels in brewery warehouse, n.d.,
black-and-white photograph, courtesy Culver Pictures, Inc.

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www.kygmc.org

Hours:

Sunday & Monday - Closed

Tuesday thru Saturday - 10AM - 3:30PM