

News from the Midwest

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Please submit News from the Midwest items to Lois at hamilll1@nku.edu.
Submissions must be 150 words or less. Images are welcome!

KENTUCKY

Filson Historical Society

With support from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), the Filson Historical Society is excited to announce the relaunch of the *First American West*, an online collection of letters, financial records, maps, and objects relating to the Ohio River Valley from the mid-1700s through the early 1800s. Originally a collaboration with the Library of Congress and the University of Chicago, *The First American West: The Ohio River Valley, 1750–1820* (FAW) was an early digitization project that launched in 2000. While it was an early standard-bearer for digital history, it became unavailable in 2016 when the Library of Congress ended support for the project. In this relaunch, an NEH-funded research team has expanded the project to highlight the experiences of those originally excluded, including the voices of women, those enslaved, and the Indigenous communities that called this region home. You are invited to explore and learn more at <https://filsonhistorical.omeka.net/first-american-west>.



Map of the Falls of the Ohio, 1824
[RXSM 627.13 F624 1824]

MINNESOTA

Bethel University

The Bethel University History Center recently created a digital exhibit with StoryMapJS featuring its collection of copies of *The Pilgrim's Progress*. Over the centuries, John Bunyan's 1678 publication became one of the most influential pieces of literature across the globe. Bethel University holds 114 rare versions in several languages, dating from 1727 forward, once owned by the Klingberg Children's Home in New Britain, Connecticut. Using a digitized foldout map of the character's journey from an 1853 edition, the exhibit overlays illustrations from various copies in the collection. This exhibit is an adventure through *The Pilgrim's Progress*, world literature, and art history. This virtual exhibit can be found at <https://cdm16120.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/p16120coll60/custom/illustrated-journey-exhibit>.



Woodcut frontispiece from *The Pilgrim's Progress*, 1727 edition, depicting author John Bunyan. Image courtesy of Bethel University History Center.

SOUTH DAKOTA

South Dakota State Historical Society

South Dakota native and author Joseph Bottum will be the featured speaker at the South Dakota State Historical Society's 2023 History Conference and Governor's Awards for History. The event will take place April 21–22 at the Pierre Ramkota Hotel and Conference Center. Bottum is a faculty member at Dakota State University looking into the ethical dimensions of the computer revolution. Born in Vermillion and raised in Pierre, he has philosophy degrees from Georgetown University and Boston College, served as an editor for *The Weekly Standard* and *First Things*, and has published several books on poetry and religion and numerous essays on American culture. He recently delivered the graduation poem at Princeton University. Bottum will speak Saturday afternoon about how history and place provide our moral compass as a society. "Great Faces—Great Places: History Makers in South Dakota" is the theme of this year's conference. Speakers will share about some of the most influential and interesting people of South Dakota's past.