

# GROVE GAZETTE

Historic Locust Grove

561 Blankenbaker Lane

Louisville, KY 40207

(502) 897-9845

www.locustgrove.org



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## Preston Thomas — Spirit Award Winner

Spirit Award Winner **Preston Thomas** came to Locust Grove in 1997 when a long-time friend asked him to join the board.

"I am good friends with quite a few of the volunteers here, so I've had a connection to this place for years," Preston says. "I was delighted to become a part of Historic Locust Grove."

Now, 12 years later, B. Preston Thomas, M.D., is one of Locust Grove's most active board members — always willing to do anything to help out.

"Preston is always ready to pitch in," says Program Director **Mary Beth Williams**. "If he sees something that needs doing, he does it!"

You'll often find Preston in the parking lot during special events — rain, heat, cold, shine — parking cars, taking admissions, or running food and drink to the students who are helping to direct traffic.

Preston has served as HLG's Board President, as well as Secretary, and twice as Treasurer. When Locust Grove was finalizing its search for a new Executive Director in early 2004, Preston also became Locust Grove's Acting Director.

"Fortunately, I'd just retired after about 25 years with Suburban Hospital" he says with a laugh, "so I could spend a lot of time here at Locust Grove while we were without an executive director."

"When I arrived, Preston taught me everything — from how to unlock the House to where the extra checkbook was kept," says HLG Executive Director **Carol Ely**.

"He gave me all kinds of valuable insights into the people who work here and support Locust Grove — information that's essential for any new executive director," she adds.

"Preston is devoted, insightful, and hides a very perceptive mind under a quiet demeanor," says Carol. "He



can't let a penny go unexplained or a bill be paid late — exactly the kind of person you want looking over your books.

"He keeps us on the path of prudence and virtue, fiscally and ethically responsible in all areas — but in the nicest possible way," she says.

HLG Board President **Gwynne Potts** totally agrees. "Preston is thorough, dedicated, and dependable. Plus, he's got a great wife and an incredible collection of fabulous sweaters," she adds, with a laugh.

"I can't imagine Locust Grove without Preston," says Carol. "In fact, I never want to imagine Locust Grove without Preston!"

## Yearly Events Mark Your Calendars!

### Afternoon Lecture Series

1:00 p.m. — the first Wednesday of the month (except January and May).

### Used Book Sale

Great book bargains to support Locust Grove's programs — held the second weekend in March.

### 18th Century Thunder

Our Revolutionary War Encampment — held the Saturday and Sunday of "Thunder Weekend" in April.

### Gardeners' Fair & Auction

Friday, Saturday, Sunday — held the second weekend in May.

### Mothers' Day Brunch

Sunday during the Gardeners' Fair. *Reservations required.*

### Antiques Markets

Held on the last Sundays in June and in September.

### 18th Century Market Fair

Held Saturday and Sunday on the last weekend in October.

### Holiday Candlelight Tours

Costumed interpreters in the house and out-buildings on Friday and Saturday in early December.

## From The Director's Desk

**Carol Ely, Ph.D., Executive Director**

A financial crash. The credit bubble finally bursts. Banks fail, businesses close, housing prices plummet. Homelessness grows. Factories are dark. Fraud, misery, anger spread across the land.

As one report noted, "All things are changed, the rich have become poor, the poor distrust... want, and fear and prosecution and suspense and terror and dismay and bankruptcy and pauperism on all sides and on all hands."

The "Panic of 1819" was the first major financial crisis of the new American nation, sudden and inexplicable to people who believed that growth and expansion were inevitable as

America boldly moved West and developed its manufacturing and trade in competition with European powers.

America had prospered during the War of 1812 and after, as the Napoleonic Wars distracted England and France from their own manufacturing, and American ships came to (briefly) dominate Atlantic shipping. American farms helped to supply European tables during the conflict.

But post-War, prices dropped as England and France began to compete again in the New World as well as the Old. Smaller and newer American manufactories of cloth and iron were forced out of business. In some

industrial cities, three-quarters of the laboring population was suddenly out of work.

During the war, prices for land had risen beyond all logic and reason, spurred by cheap credit from newly chartered and entrepreneurial banks (sound familiar?).

In Louisville, which was caught in the national frenzy of speculation, city lots that sold for \$700 for the entire lot in 1812 went for \$300 per square foot by 1817. The new banks obliged the demand for cash by literally printing money.

When the Second Bank of the United States finally pulled on the reins and demanded that the banks call in their questionable

loans, the crash was sudden and devastating.

Small shopkeepers were destroyed. In Henderson, Kentucky, John James Audubon had been operating a profitable store and a mill. But in 1819, he was forced to declare bankruptcy and was jailed for debt.

In a society where credit had long been given based on personal attributes and personal connections, business failure was seen as personal failure. Audubon was embarrassed by his situation.

The Panic of 1819, however, was so widespread and affected so many stable enterprises, that people began to understand that business cycles were bigger than individual virtue, and even less understandable.

Louisville was less distressed than many cities because of the ongoing Ohio River traffic as Americans continued to stream south and west. Added to this river traffic were the new technological benefits of the development of steam power to carry goods on the Western Waters.

By the early 1820s, the Panic of 1819 was seen as a mere interruption in the new commercial, agricultural, and industrial might of the region.

*Carol Ely*

### Locust Grove's Fabulous Used Book Sale – March 13-15

Don't miss Historic Locust Grove's fifth annual Used Book Sale. Last year, we had more than 17,000 books — most of which were priced at 50 cents, \$1 and \$2. These books cover many categories — from history,



philosophy and art to biography, fiction and mystery. We'll have tables filled with children's books, audiobooks and so much more.

Our volunteers spend weeks organizing all the books — a huge plus for shoppers who know what they want and can go right to it.



Again this year, we'll have a silent auction of some valuable antiquarian books. And we always have a special table devoted entirely to books about Louisville and Kentucky, and books by Kentucky authors.

All proceeds go to support Historic Locust Grove's education and preservation programs.

**But to be successful, we need *your books!* We're accepting donations right now. And all donations are tax-deductible. Just ask us for a receipt.**

We'll accept books in good condition, including paperbacks and hardcovers, as well as DVDs, cassettes, videotapes, and audiobooks. Please — no romance novels, textbooks or magazines.

You may drop off books at Locust Grove during the hours we're open, seven days a week. Or, if you need to have books picked up, just call 897-9845. Thanks!



**To avoid the huge first-day crowd, become a Friend of Locust Grove. Members can shop early at the Thursday evening Preview Party.**

Grove Gazette is published quarterly by Historic Locust Grove, Inc. for members, volunteers and supporters of Historic Locust Grove. © 2009

561 Blankenbaker Lane  
Louisville, KY 40207  
(502) 897-9845  
(502) 896-2433  
www.locustgrove.org

The mission of Historic Locust Grove, Inc. is to preserve and interpret the 55-acre site, with its circa 1790 house and out-buildings, the collection, and the gardens, as an example of early 19th century frontier America.

It is also our mission to share the stories of the many people who contributed to the history of Locust Grove, emphasizing the life of General George Rogers Clark, Revolutionary War hero and founder of the city of Louisville.

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## Getting To Know Locust Grove's Costumed Interpreters

# Sue Rogers: Serena and Madame DuBois

### How did you become involved in costumed interpreting?

In 1998, Locust Grove's program director said that I resembled Serena Livingston Croghan and asked if I'd like to portray her at the next Candlelight. No one had ever "been" Serena, wife of Lucy and William's second son George. But I was eager to take on the challenge.

### How did you research Serena?

At the time, there was little primary documentation on Serena, and the "folklore" surrounding her was unfounded and negative. Yet, the stories continued to be retold. I wanted to represent not only an essence of Serena, but to give the public, staff, and docents well-researched facts about this charming lady.

I read all the Croghan letters to find references to Serena and George. Her stunning portrait in the formal dining room inspired my gorgeous red velvet dress and hairstyle. I actually became a bit obsessed with women's fashion of the Regency/Empire/Federal era, as well as the music, manners and etiquette of 1820.

Serena came from the Livingtons of the Hudson River Valley. She was well-born and would have had impeccable manners.

For seven years, I was Serena during our Candlelight tours. I loved how she developed and it was great fun to find new ways to keep the character fresh.

However, as the years passed, I realized that I had "out-aged" Serena. It was time to let a younger woman take over.

### Is this when Madame DuBois was born? And who is she?

Madame Angélique DuBois is actually a fictitious character, born of the need to have someone lead the dancing in the ballroom — a Candlelight activity that had become very popular with our guests.

In 1998, we had Renaissance-style singing in the ballroom, but no dancing. I was convinced that Lucy Croghan would have had dancing at her holiday party. So I volunteered to research the music and dance of the era and develop a dance "program" for Candlelight.

My husband Steve and I had belonged to the Louisville Scottish Dance Society for several years, which gave me some background in period dancing. I selected a very simple dance that was period-correct, and away we went.

### How did the character of Madame DuBois develop?

That first year, I created an Englishwoman as dance mistress, but I didn't think it worked very well.

I opted to recreate the character as French because of Louisville's strong connections with that country. But mostly, I felt the accent, language, and personality would be fun to develop.

Madame DuBois is responsible for teaching period dances to our interpreters during rehearsals. Then, during Candlelight, she becomes the mistress of the ballroom — welcoming visitors and directing the dancing activities.



As Serena Livingston Croghan.



As Dancing Mistress Madame DuBois.

### What makes you want to come back, year after year, to be a part of Candlelight?

I love the music, the dance, the joy in the interactions of the 19th century characters with the visitors from the 21st century. It's like magic. The laughter, the clapping, the tapping of the toes.

One of the first things visitors ask when they come to the house during Candlelight is, "When does the dancing start?" I can't tell you how delighted that makes me feel.

If one squints the eyes, or perhaps looks in the reflections from the convex mirror over the mantel, it's as if you really are there. Perhaps time travel is a reality after all.

## Ann Croghan Jesup Comes Home

She went on a long journey of some 150 years that took her across the Atlantic. But now Ann Croghan Jesup has returned to Louisville and her childhood home, Locust Grove.

Ann Heron Croghan Jesup (1797-1846) was the daughter of Lucy and William Croghan. She married General Thomas S. Jesup, Quartermaster General of the U.S., and moved to Washington, D.C., where she was to live for the rest of her life.

Her husband commissioned artist Charles Bird King to paint Ann's portrait posthumously in 1846.

That portrait had been discussed in Jesup family



*After a rescue from a barn in England, Ann Croghan Jesup's portrait now presides over the fireplace in the formal dining room.*

papers for years, but no one seemed to know where it was.

Then one day, a Louisville antiques dealer was cruising eBay, recognized the name Ann Jesup, and called Locust Grove. Staff members and some board members went online to check out the portrait that was up for auction.

"We took one look and immediately saw the resemblance to Ann's mother, Lucy Clark Croghan," said Historic Locust Grove Executive Director Carol Ely.

A British antiques dealer had discovered the badly damaged portrait in an Oxfordshire barn. The portrait was identified through faint inscriptions on the reverse, naming the sitter and the artist. "The portrait had a 'Buy It Now' price. We paid that price, and the painting was on its way to Locust Grove."

After careful restoration, Ann Croghan Jesup's portrait now hangs over the mantel in the House's formal dining room.

### Did You Know?

There's a new item in General George Rogers Clark's room on the northwest corner of the first floor of the house. It's a "wheeled invalid chair," or as we'd say now, a wheelchair.

This new acquisition is an early 19th century ladderback chair that was converted into a chair for an invalid soon after it was made.

The chair is made from several different kinds of wood, including maple and oak — with a sturdy wheeled platform under the chair legs.

There was no set standard for adapting furniture for people with

disabilities, so it's interesting to see the construction of this chair.

This chair is of New England origin, but there's no reason to think that it would have been made differently if it had been made in this part of the country.

When General Clark came to live permanently at Locust Grove in 1809, his right leg had been amputated.

We know that Clark sat in a wheeled chair at times, which was wheeled around by his personal servant, the slave Kitt.

According to Cuthbert Bullitt, who visited the home, "I remember seeing him sit on the porch at his sister's house; he had a chair with rollers on it, which he could roll about."

Other visitors remembered Clark with a crutch as well.

And now you know.



## Change In 'Grove Gazette' Mailing Policy

For the past six years, *Grove Gazette* has been a way for Historic Locust Grove, Inc., to help our community of supporters better understand the importance of this fascinating historic site.

Through stories and photos, we've focused on the people who lived at Locust Grove, what their lives were like, and the impact those people had on Louisville, the region, and on the new country that was being created in the 1800s.

Messages from the Executive Director often include interesting insights into what life was like when the Croghans lived at Locust Grove, as well as descriptions of new programs and other opportunities for making Locust Grove an important part of Louisville's life today.

Through other articles such as "Did You Know?" and our costumed interpreter interviews, we strive to enrich our readers' understanding and spark their curiosity about the people and things they see or experience when visiting Locust Grove.

Over these same years, our mailing list for *Grove Gazette*, has grown substantially. In the current economic climate, we are revisiting our mailing practices.

Therefore, beginning with the Spring 2009 issue, *Grove Gazette* will be mailed only to Friends of Locust Grove (our members), along with Historic Locust Grove donors, volunteers, and other supporters.

But we'll not leave you out in the cold. After each *Gazette* is published, we will post the latest issue on our website, [www.locustgrove.org](http://www.locustgrove.org). The website always has a lot of up-to-date information, too, about events and other Locust Grove news.

We also are able to send notices to individual email addresses about upcoming events. If you'd like to get on that mailing list, please send your email address to: [wise@locustgrove.org](mailto:wise@locustgrove.org). We keep all email addresses private. Rest assured, it is against our policy to share or distribute your email address.

You still will receive some mailings from Locust Grove about upcoming events and programs. But the surest way to keep up on what's happening at Locust Grove is to become a member (see *Page 6*) . . . send us your email address . . . and make frequent visits to [www.locustgrove.org](http://www.locustgrove.org).

Thanks for your interest in Historic Locust Grove!

## 2009 AFTERNOON LECTURE SERIES

*This year's theme is "The Material World: Art, Architecture, and Design in Early Kentucky." Lectures are held on the first Wednesday of each month, except for January and May. Desserts and coffee are served at 1:00 p.m., with the lecture immediately following. Admission is \$5, or \$3 for Friends of Locust Grove.*

### KENTUCKY PORTRAIT PAINTERS

Wednesday, February 4, 1:00 p.m.

Estill Curtis ("Buck") Pennington, formerly with the Archives of American Art and the National Portrait Gallery, will talk about early artists in Kentucky and in the South. His new book on Kentucky paintings, *Kentucky: The Master Painters*, has just been published.

### QUILTMaking IN EARLY AMERICA

Wednesday, March 4, 1:00 p.m.

Shelly Zegart, internationally known curator, author, and collector, was a founding director of The Kentucky Quilt Project (1981), the country's first statewide quilt documentation effort. It sparked an international movement to document quilts of particular areas, yielding many exhibitions and publications. She's also a consultant for the Gee's Bend quilt projects. Shelly will focus on the quilt's importance in the early settlement of our country and also will describe her current research interests and projects.



Shelly Zegart

### THE MATERIAL WORLD OF KENTUCKY SLAVES

Wednesday, April 1, 1:00 p.m.

Archeologist Lori Stahlgren has been involved with excavating and researching many sites in the region associated with slave life. She will share some of the conclusions and ongoing questions from her work.

### Registration Deadline – February 23!

## Historic Nashville Tour

Volunteers and Friends of Locust Grove! Join us for a two-day trip to visit historic homes in Nashville, Tenn. — **Wednesday and Thursday, May 13 and 14, 2009.**

Wednesday morning, we'll tour the Hermitage, home of President Andrew Jackson, and enjoy a box lunch at the Hermitage Café. That afternoon, we'll have a special tour and dinner at the Belmont Mansion, an elaborate antebellum estate begun in 1849.

On Thursday, we'll have an included breakfast at our hotel before

## 2008-2009 CHAMBER MUSIC SERIES

*This is a rare opportunity to enjoy music much as the Croghans and Clarks would have in the early 1800s. Light refreshments are served on the first floor of the historic house at 5:00 p.m.; the concert is at 5:30 in the ballroom.*

*We have three levels of support for our Chamber Music Series — Patron, \$200; Supporter, \$100; Season Subscriber, \$65. Individual concert tickets may be purchased at \$20 each.*

*Seating is limited and reservations are required.*

*Because of limited space, we request that Season Ticket Holders also confirm their attendance for each concert.*

*Please call (502) 897-9845 for further information and purchase individual tickets or to subscribe.*

### FAIREST ISLE

Sunday, February 15

Louisville's own period instrument ensemble, *Bourbon Baroque*, will play "songs and ayres of The Fairest Isle" [i.e., England]. Joining the group will be Soprano **Laura Lea Duckworth**.

### COMMEMORATING HAYDN

Sunday, March 22

In commemoration of the 250th anniversary of Haydn's death, forte pianist **Joan Parsley** will join members of *Ensemble Musical Offering*. A presentation of Haydn piano trios will aptly celebrate the life of the Austrian composer.



*The always-delightful December concert featured songs and other activities from the winter of 1812.*

heading out to tour the Travellers Rest Plantation, built in 1799.

We'll then visit the Belle Meade Plantation, a Greek revival house from 1853. We'll eat lunch there, then begin our return to Louisville.

For this all-inclusive tour, we will have the services of a professional tour director and driver, as well as Shockey Tours deluxe motor coach transportation.

Costs: Double Occupancy: \$270 per person

Single Occupancy: \$330 per person

**Note:** *Prices are based on a full bus. Final prices may vary.*





## FIFTH ANNUAL USED BOOK SALE

### Members' Preview

Thursday, March 12, 5:00–7:30 p.m.

### Open To Public

Friday thru Sunday, March 13–15  
10:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Great bargains! Great prices! More than 17,000 books, DVDs, audiotapes, CDs, antiquarian books, and special Kentucky collections.



## ADULT WINTER WORKSHOPS

### HOW TO RE-RUSH A CHAIR

Saturday, February 21  
10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Learn to make a rush seat for a chair from craftsman **Art Hoffman**. You may bring your own chair, or buy a stool from the instructor for \$25. If you bring your own chair, it must have access to all four rails of the seat — on the front, the back and two sides. Art recommends a basic ladderback chair. The cost of the workshop is \$25, which covers all materials for making a rush seat. Participants should bring their own flat screwdriver, hammer, scissors, tape measure, and spring clamp.



Deadline for registration is February 9.

### HEARTH COOKING CLASS

Saturday, March 14  
10:00 a.m.– 1:00 p.m.

Have a great time learning to cook over Locust Grove's open hearth! You'll create a tasty meal using authentic techniques and cookware. Locust Grove's cook will teach you the basics and help you create a memorable meal. Cost of the class is \$30. And you'll get to eat the meal you prepare! **Class size is limited to 12 participants**, so call today to register!



### PAINTED FLOOR CLOTHS

Saturday, April 18  
11:00 a.m.–1:30 p.m., and  
Sunday, April 19  
1:00 p.m.–3:30 p.m.

**Virginia Tucker** will show you how to create a versatile floor covering in this two-day workshop. Students will paint and create their own floor cloth. The fee includes frames, canvas, paint, brushes, and pattern. The workshop is held in two sessions to allow the first day's paint to dry. Two-day workshop cost is \$75.



## CHILDREN'S SUMMER CAMPS

Registration for summer camps opens March 1st!

### WOODWORKING CAMP

Monday through Friday, June 15 – 19  
(Ages 11-14, 9:30–11:30 a.m.; Ages 7-10, 12:30–2:30 p.m.)

Locust Grove carpenters will lead students in learning the basics of woodworking. Students will learn about types of wood, historic and modern woodworking tools, and they will complete a project to take home. \$75 per camper.

Please call (502) 897-9845 to register after March 1.

### PIONEER CAMP

Monday through Friday, July 6 – 10

This exciting camp provides a wonderful sampler of early pioneer life. Students participate in crafts such as weaving, writing with quills, and candle-making. They take part in activities such as storytelling, historic games, and nature walks. Cost: \$80 per student.

Please call (502) 897-9845 to register after March 1.

## 18TH CENTURY THUNDER: A REVOLUTIONARY WAR ENCAMPMENT

Saturday, April 18 and  
Sunday, April 19  
10:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Companies representing General George Rogers Clark's troops from the Northwest Campaign will re-enact life in a military camp, including surveying, cooking, drilling, and other demonstrations. They'll also conduct a formal military memorial service to their leader.

You'll hear the thunder of muskets, the clang of the blacksmith's hammer and the melodies of the fife and drum.



*Troops solemnly march to the grave of General George Rogers Clark.*



*Young recruits sign up for duty.*

Men, women and children in Revolutionary War-era gear will transport your family to another time — a wonderful opportunity to bring history to life. Admission: \$6 adults, \$3 children 6-12, free for children 5 and under.

## Attention, Volunteers!

### Nominations For Pilkington Award Are Now Open

The Locust Grove Volunteer Steering Committee created an award in 1998 to recognize volunteers — former or current — who have offered a lifetime of dedication and support to Historic Locust Grove.

The first winners were **Emilie Strong Smith** in 1998 and **Martin Schmidt** in 1999. They set the standard that this award celebrates.

In 2000, the award was named for **Audrey Pilkington** in recognition of her pioneering and positive energy in nurturing the Locust Grove volunteer corps, as well as her contributions and dedication to many other programs at Locust Grove.

Six more volunteers have received the **Audrey Pilkington Lifetime Achievement Award**

— **Fred Atkinson** (2001), **Dorothy Martin** (2003), **Bob Pilkington** (2004), **LaMar Gaston** (2006), **Gwynne Potts** (2007), and **Shirley Dumesnil** (2008).

The steering committee considers candidates based on information and recommendations contained in nomination forms.

If a 2009 winner is selected, the award will be announced at the volunteer appreciation party scheduled for **Thurs., March 26, 6:00-8:00 p.m.**

This is your chance to recognize your fellow volunteers! Pick up a nomination form from Program Director **Mary Beth Williams**.

*Nominations must be returned to Mary Beth by March 1, 2009.*



2008 Pilkington Award Winner  
Shirley Dumesnil.

## Friends of Locust Grove

Enrollment/Renewal from September 17, through December 31, 2008

A hearty "thank you" to all of these people who recently joined or renewed their memberships, and to all of our longtime Friends of Locust Grove!

If you'd like to become a Friend, please go online to [www.locustgrove.org](http://www.locustgrove.org), or call us at (502) 897-9845 for further information and details.

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Yearly memberships in the Friends of Locust Grove are available in three categories:

Individual — \$35

Family — \$50

Student — \$15

For membership information and details, please call us at (502) 897-9845.

**Remember:**  
"Friends of Locust Grove" always receive a 10% discount at the Museum Store!

## Many Thanks To Our Donors

Many thanks to the hundreds of people who support Historic Locust Grove through various kinds of donations. We depend upon and deeply appreciate your generosity and involvement.

Thanks to the following people for their most recent donations.

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