

GROVE GAZETTE

Historic Locust Grove

561 Blankenbaker Lane

Louisville, KY 40207

(502) 897-9845

www.locustgrove.org



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Jennifer McCormick Spirit Award Winner

Two children were trying to decide which of four books to buy at a recent Locust Grove Used Book Sale. This quarter's Spirit Award Winner **Jennifer McCormick** was telling them what they'd love in each book.

"But we have only a dollar to spend," said one child. "That means we can buy only two."

Jennifer reached into her pocket and pulled out a folded dollar bill. "Here," she said, "this is from my special Book Scholarship Fund. If your mom says it's OK, you can use it to buy the other two books. I know you'll love them all!"

As Jennifer explains, "Reading is so important for kids. They must have access to books to nurture a love of reading. So I will do whatever it takes."

On another day, you might find Jennifer in the woods around Locust Grove, ripping out invasive plants and trying to get dog owners to keep their pets on leashes. Or perhaps she's leading a "Woods Walking Tour," telling visitors about the native trees and plants and describing what the Croghans would have planted.

For these and many other reasons, the Volunteer Steering Committee selected Jennifer to win this quarter's Spirit Award.

"Jennifer is always so positive and enthusiastic," says HLG Program Director **Mary Beth Williams**. "The committee nominated her because of her dedication to our gardens and property as well as her invaluable assistance with our semi-annual Used Book Sale and other book events."



Locust Grove gardener **Sarah Sutherland** adds that Jennifer serves a unique role — as a volunteer and a neighbor. "She's one woman against acres of weeds, but it's a valiant effort. She's a huge help to me and groundskeeper **John Moses**."

Adds **Charles Bartman**, leader of many book events at Locust Grove, "Jennifer is a fantastic worker, one anyone would be fortunate to have. Thank goodness she's one of *our* Locust Grove volunteers!"

Yearly Events Mark Your Calendars!

Afternoon Lecture Series

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

Two Used Book Sales

Great book bargains abound during the second weekend in March and last weekend in August.

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.*

Two Antiques Markets

Held on the last Sunday 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.

GROVE GAZETTE

From the Director's Desk

Carol Ely, Ph.D., Executive Director

Locust Grove lost a great friend in March when **Martin Schmidt** died at the age of 91.

Martin was a profound presence at Locust Grove for many years, adding immeasurably to the success and the warmth of the site.

As a volunteer docent, he led many a humorous and informative tour. As a costumed interpreter, he led the cast and crew with his portrayal of William Croghan.

As the site's historian, he ensured that the presentation of the costumed interpreters was as accurate as possible in spirit and letter to the time when the Clarks and Croghans walked these grounds.

This was a role he played comfortably after his years of professional archival work with the Filson Historical Society and the Kentucky Historical Society.

Martin used those same skills to research and answer questions from the volunteers, staff, and visitors as well. Until only a few

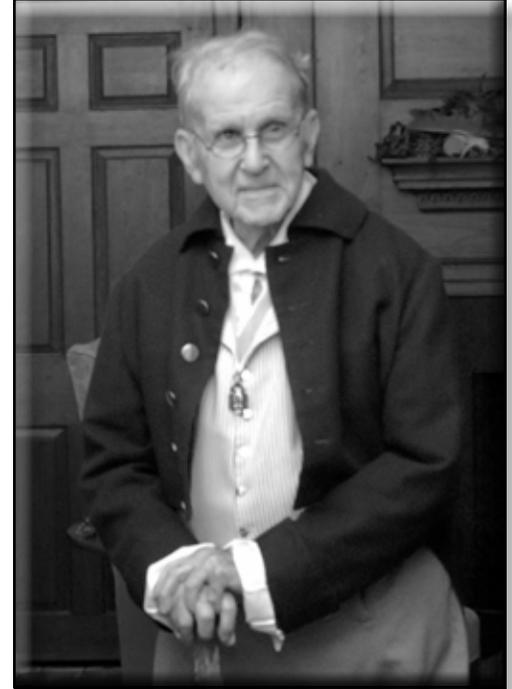
years ago, Martin was at Locust Grove at least weekly to share his unique blend of kindness, sharp perception, and dry wit.

And he did it all with quiet modesty and no fanfare whatsoever.

Martin was a major donor to Locust Grove. He provided more support than any other individual to our recent Visitor Center Gallery expansion — which we named for him at *our* insistence.

He underwrote our endowment funds, paid for the historic House to be completely rewired before our current restoration work began, supported our annual fund drive each year, and gave countless gifts — large and small, asked for and spontaneous — to speed the work of Historic Locust Grove and support the people here.

His legacy is everywhere on the physical site itself — and more so in the memories and the hearts of all who had the good fortune to know him.



Martin F. Schmidt

September 26, 1918 – March 6, 2010

Louisville in general and Locust Grove in particular were dear to him, and we are all the richer for having had him here with us for so long.

Martin planned his own memorial celebration before his death, and people from all over gathered to remember him and share their memories with his family.

Donations have poured in to Locust Grove in his honor to support the work that he believed in. And we continue to be grateful for his generosity and honored to have had his esteem.

So, here's one last "thank you" to Martin, as we strive to live up to all that he would have wanted Locust Grove to be.

Carol Ely



Photograph by Christina M. Freitag

Lucy Clark Croghan (Mandy Dick) listens with delight as her husband William Croghan (Martin Schmidt) welcomes his brothers-in-law (at left) William Clark (Bud Clark) and George Rogers Clark (Melvin Hankla) to Locust Grove during the Lewis & Clark Bicentennial "Homecoming Celebration" in November 2006. Behind Lucy is William Clark's slave, York (Hasan Davis).

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561 Blankenbaker Lane
Louisville, KY 40207
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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

Ted Wright is George Rogers Clark

Which historic person are you interpreting?

I'm portraying General George Rogers Clark. I began portraying him last fall at the 18th Century Market Fair.

Years ago, I was involved with Historic Middletown and the Massacre Trail where we told stories about Peggy Chenoweth and Captain Abraham Linkhorn (Abraham Lincoln's grandfather). We had many Boy Scout troops as our visitors, and it was fun getting the kids involved in what happened in Middletown 200 years ago.

How did you begin costumed interpreting at HLG?

About four years ago, as a school group was leaving, one of the adults asked if I were related to George Rogers Clark. I said no and asked why she thought that. She pointed to the wall, saying, "You look just like his picture." I looked at the painting and thought, "Wow! Do I look that old and grumpy?"

It wasn't long before (former) Program Director **Aileen Novick** and Executive Director **Carol Ely** were asking me to portray George. They wanted to have me up-to-speed in time for George's arrival at Locust Grove in 1809 — which we would be interpreting in 2009.

Describe your character.

George's story is a blending of two stages of his life. As a young man, George was a very strong leader, very sure of himself. I think of him as a "just do it" type of person who saw what was going on, decided what should be done, and then did it.

His actions made him a national hero at the age of 26 in February

1779, when he valiantly rallied some 150 frozen, starving soldiers and led them through icy flooded lands for days to capture Fort Sackville in Vincennes, Ind., from the British. Because they were able to hold Fort Sackville for the rest of the war, George Rogers Clark and his men helped to virtually double the size of the new United States.

Unfortunately, the last 20 or so years of George's life were not so triumphant. He was in debt — in large part because the U.S. did not reimburse him for most of the expenses he incurred during the Northwest Campaign. And then, when he lost his leg due to a severe burn in 1809, his dreams of status, land, money, and power crashed to rock-bottom.

Trying to understand George in those last years spent at Locust Grove (1809-1818) is difficult. But he had moved in with Lucy and her husband William Croghan and was among his beloved family. We know that was so important to him.

How do you make General Clark come to life?

I have four sisters, and I tease all of them endlessly. I think George would have done the same with his sister, Lucy Clark Croghan, and the other family members who visited Locust Grove often.

George knew many powerful people and certainly enjoyed the political intrigue going on at the time. We know that he had visitors during his days at Locust Grove —



probably many of them. I also think he would have lamented the loss of his leg and how it cut down on his activities.

How do you research your character?

I've had lots of help from all the costumed interpreters, which I really appreciate. I read everything I can on George. I've visited the areas in Virginia where he was born and where his family's farm was, along with many other places significant to George's life.

What makes costumed interpreting worth the time?

It's fun to watch people's reactions when you stay in character and time-frame. When a lady told me she's from Prospect, I asked if she were sure that's in Kentucky — since it wasn't in George's day. Her puzzled look was priceless.

But I was most touched during last year's 18th Century Market Fair when soldier reenactors thanked me "for everything you did for our country."

Celebrate Locust Grove's Re-Restoration With Symposium and Free Open House



We've sampled and analyzed . . . researched and studied . . . repaired and replaced . . . scraped and sanded . . . painted and papered . . . sewn textiles and woven carpets. We've dusted and cleaned and polished and shined. And now we're ready to go!

It's been nearly a year and a-half since we began the process to re-examine everything we thought we knew about the star of our



historic site — the 1790s mansion house built by William and Lucy Croghan. Thanks to a generous

foundation grant, we've been able to restore Locust Grove with as much authenticity as possible to the grand mansion it was when the Croghans lived here.



Did You Know...?

The rich shade of green glaze now in *four* of the restored rooms at Locust Grove is known as verdigris. What is verdigris?

The English word is borrowed from the medieval French term for "Greek green." Verdigris is made from copper treated by some sort of acid — such as vinegar or even dung — in order to produce a green-tinged compound that can be mixed with oil and used as a pigment.

Verdigris is very stable over time, which made it attractive for use in oil painting and in house paints.

Seen under a microscope, the verdigris found at Locust Grove by paint researcher **Matthew Mosca** appears as brilliant green crystals suspended in a clear oily base.

This shade of green was popular in the 18th century. Its expense also marked the owner of a house decorated with verdigris as wealthy and tasteful.

Verdigris was used in the great houses of the era, such as Washington's Mount Vernon and George Mason's Gunston Hall.

We did our utmost to determine the exact shades and original appearance of all the painted surfaces of the House. And we used modern equivalents for such dangerous pigments as lead white. (And no dung!)

Locust Grove's verdigris is a series of semi-transparent layers of glaze — up to five layers in some areas — over a solid base coat of either gray or blue.

We know that William Croghan purchased 7-1/2 pounds of verdigris pigment in 1806 at a store in downtown Louisville. That would make a considerable quantity of paint, enough for four rooms and more.

And now you know.

Grand Re-Opening Events

Thursday, June 24: Friends' Reception

Friends of Locust Grove and guests will kick off the celebration tonight. If you'd like to attend, be sure to join or renew your membership by June 1.

Friday, June 25:

Rediscovering William Croghan's Locust Grove

It's an all-day symposium on the restoration planning and process. We'll have talks, panel discussions, and demonstrations — such as printing wallpaper with wood blocks.

The symposium will be open to the public — with a fee and registration required. Lunch will be included. All Friends of Locust Grove and everyone on our email list will receive a notice of this event.

To be sure you get our emails, send a message to: lghh@locustgrove.org. Information on the symposium will be posted on our website: www.locustgrove.org.

Saturday, June 26: Free Admission!

Locust Grove will be open all day — **free to the public**. We'll have events, demonstrations, re-enactments, and general festivities. Please join us!

In the last issue of *Grove Gazette*, we announced the grand re-opening events that were to be held in late March. But just as that issue was put in the mail, we learned that the wallpaper for the second-floor Grand Parlor would not be ready. This winter's East Coast snowstorms wreaked havoc on the production schedule for the custom-printed wallpaper being produced in New York, as well as for other elements in the house.

And so, we're celebrating our grand re-restoration on the last weekend in June. Appropriately, this celebration coincides with our semi-annual Antiques Market that Sunday.

All Friends of Locust Grove and people on our email list will receive announcements of these events. We'll also post them on our website at www.locustgrove.org, our blog at www.locustgrovelouisville.blogspot.com. And we'll put updates on Facebook and Twitter.

We hope you'll be on hand to help us celebrate Locust Grove's exciting new "old" look!

Historic Locust Grove
CALENDAR

VOLUNTEER OPEN HOUSE

Saturday, May 15,

Drop in any time between 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

The docent who gave a fascinating tour ... the costumed interpreter you met during Candlelight ... the person who served up the homemade goodies at the latest event ... the energetic person weeding the garden ... the cheerful clerk helping you in the Museum Store — nearly all of these people are part of Historic Locust Grove's volunteer corps. Volunteers are our life-blood. And we're always

looking for more volunteers — all ages, all interests — with flexible time commitments and lots of fun!

Come to this Open House to meet some of our volunteers. We'll describe the opportunities at Locust Grove and answer questions. If you can't attend the Open House but would like to volunteer, please call Program Director **Mary Beth Williams** at (502) 897-9845 or send her an email at Williams@locustgrove.org.



SUMMER ANTIQUES MARKET

Sunday, June 27, 10:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Historic Locust Grove's semi-annual Antiques Market features professional dealers from the South and Midwest displaying their wares on the lawn at Historic Locust Grove. In addition to American country antiques, the show features formal furniture, jewelry and silver.

Admission is \$6 for adults, \$3 for children 6-12, free for children 5 and under, and includes tours of the newly restored historic house. Admission is good for both days of the market. And we'll have lots of delicious foods available for purchase.

Proceeds support the continued operation and preservation of Historic Locust Grove.



Sign Up Now for Locust Grove's Great Camps for Kids

Summer's just around the corner, so it's time to start thinking of camp. We'll have three week-long camps — plus a two-day adventure into archaeology. Call (502) 897-9845 to reserve your child's place in history.

WOODWORKING CAMP

Monday, June 14 – Friday, June 18

Ages 11-14: 9:30–11:30 a.m.

Ages 7-10: 12:30–2:30 p.m.

Build a birdhouse, or a stool, or another fun project out of wood. Learn about how to use tools and the basics of woodworking, from experienced Locust Grove woodworkers. You'll learn about types of wood, historic and modern woodworking tools, and complete a project to take home. \$75 per camper. Cost: \$75 per camper. All materials are included



ARCHAEOLOGY CAMP

Thursday, July 15, and Friday, July 16

Ages 9-11: 9:00 a.m. – 12 noon

Come learn history Indiana Jones style! Help trained archaeologists discover what artifacts are hidden beneath the surface. During this two-day camp, kids will participate in an actual archaeological dig on the grounds of Locust Grove. Cost: \$40 per camper. All equipment included.



PIONEER CAMP

Monday, July 19 – Friday, July 23

Ages 7-10: 9:00 a.m. – 12 noon

This exciting camp provides a wonderful sampler of early pioneer life. Students participate in crafts such as weaving, writing with quills, and hearth cooking. They take part in activities such as storytelling, historic games, and nature walks. Cost: \$80 per camper. All materials are included.



NEW! CRAFT CAMP

Monday, July 26 – Friday, July 30

Ages 8-14: 9:00am – 12 noon

Virginia Tucker, owner of The Virginia Floor Cloth Company in Louisville, will lead the classes.

Learn handicrafts from the 18th century! During this week-long camp, explore how things were created long ago. Make a painted canvas floor cloth, learn to finger cord, create wood block stamps and print them on handmade paper, make a small quilt, and a larger quilt as a group.

Camper will take home a completed 2-foot by 3-foot floor cloth on the last day. Cost: \$110. All materials are included.

Friends of Locust Grove

Enrollment/Renewal from January 1, through March 31, 2010

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, or call us at (502) 897-9845 for further information and details.

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Fashion, Food, and Fun Slated for The Jane Austen Festival This July

It will be "Everything Jane Austen" at the third annual Jane Austen Festival, presented by the Greater Louisville Chapter of the Jane Austen Society of North America with Historic Locust Grove. **It will be held Saturday and Sunday, July 10-11, from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.** Last year, attendees came from quite a few states as well as from Canada.

Festival-goers, many in clothes similar to what the Clarks and Croghans would have worn, can shop for clothing and material, books, and other items associated with the Jane Austen years of the early 1800s.

There'll be a fashion show featuring Regency styles, with a special appearance by Locust Grove costumed interpreter **Brian Cushing** in a segment called, "Dressing Mr. Darcy."

Special guests will include **Kim Wilson**, author of *In the Garden with Jane Austen* and *Tea with Jane Austen*, and **Ed Maeder**, who will be bringing the bonnets he created for PBS's recent production, *Dolley Madison*.

Festival-goers may make reservations for a four-course afternoon tea and to attend workshops on making a Tussy-Mussy and doing embroidery with silk ribbon.

Festival admission is \$10. The afternoon

tea and the workshops have additional fees. For further information and to make reservations, please go to the Jane Austen Society website: www.jasnalouisville.com.



To Become a Friend

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!

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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.

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Charles & Sally Moyer
Mr. & Mrs. Lee Robinson
Dace & William King Stubbs

Used Book Sale Was Great!



Historic Locust Grove's Used Book Sale, held on the second weekend in March, was a great success. Shoppers browsed through about 16,000 used and some new books in many categories — with History, Cooking, Children's, Fiction, and Mystery among the best sellers.

More than 1,000 book buyers came out over the three days of the sale, helping to raise more than \$14,000 for Locust Grove's educational and preservation programs. A new feature this year was a half-price day all day on Sunday — although buyers could choose to fill a bag that we provided for \$10, if that was a better deal for them.

We couldn't have these used book sales without you and your friends! We take book donations *throughout* the year. Just drop them off at our Visitors Center during regular hours. Or if there are too many for you to handle, call us at (502) 897-9845 and we'll pick them up. Your donation of books to Locust Grove is tax-deductible. Please ask for a receipt.

Be sure to mark your calendars for Locust Grove's August Used Book Sale — August 27-29, 2010!