New Event! 1816 in Home; Storytelling, Dancing, Crafts in Visitors’ Center

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13, 5:30 PM — 9 PM
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14, 4 PM — 9 PM

It’s “Christmastide 1816” at Locust Grove. The Croghan and Clark families invite you into their home for a visit and to partake of holiday cheer.

You may have visited the beautifully decorated Locust Grove in other Decembers, but your visit this year will be quite different. It’s now 1816. James Madison is the President. Indiana has just become a state. Unseasonably cool weather has made it “the year without a summer.”

Just three years earlier in 1813, Lucy and William’s son, Colonel George Croghan, successfully defended Ohio’s Fort Stephenson from the British — a deed that continues to be celebrated when Croghan family and friends get together.

Still being talked about are the steamboats that have been plying the Ohio River for the last five years. And people of the area remain astonished at the repercussions of the New Madrid earthquakes of 1811-12.

“In this newly re-imagined Christmastide at Locust Grove, we’ll have costumed guides leading you from the Visitors’ Center along the candlelit path to the softly glowing house,” says Mary Beth Williams, Locust Grove’s program director. “Carrying lanterns, these escorts will help visitors leave behind the modern world and enter 1816.”

When you arrive, you’ll be greeted by your host, Lucy Clark Croghan. Her house is decorated in a manner appropriate for the “country seat” of her husband, Major William Croghan, an important gentleman celebrated for his military activities during the Revolutionary War and honored for his services to his extended family, his community, his business associates.

You’ll meet Lucy’s famous older brother, General George Rogers Clark — Louisville’s founder and a hero of the Revolutionary War. He’s now in residence at Locust Grove, following an accident that resulted in the amputation of his lower right leg.

And this year, for the first time, you’ll meet Kitt — the enslaved African-American who was General Clark’s constant attendant. “We are so pleased to be able to represent the enslaved population at Locust Grove,” says Mary Beth. “The Croghans’ slaves were an integral part of the functioning of the house and the farm.”

As well, throughout the house, you’ll have a chance to chat with other family members, children, neighbors and guests.

In the second-floor Great Parlor, live music awaits you, with occasional concerts by a talented neighbor. Some of the party may show off their dancing skills. And you’re likely to be engaged in lively conversations with family members, neighbors, and guests.

Be sure to visit the hearth kitchen to see what the cook is making for dinner. You might even get to sample some of the delicious treats she is creating.

When you return to the Visitors’ Center, it’s back to 2013 — where new activities and delights await you. “If any of the dances you saw in the house pique your interest, be sure to check out our corps of period dancers in the Visitors Center,” advises Mary Beth. “They’ll demonstrate some dances from the early 1800s, and you may learn a few of the dances yourself, if you wish.”

This year, delightful storytellers will be on hand to capture your imagination. Children over three years old will have the opportunity to create their own holiday crafts from 6-8 p.m. both evenings. You might even try your hand at the very popular card game of the period called Whist. And, of course, there will be refreshments for all.

“But with our new Christmastide, we hope to recreate the warmth and magic of the season in an early 19th century American home,” adds Mary Beth. “Using first person interpretation, the costumed interpreters will entertain and educate our guests by bringing history to life before their eyes. This is the kind of tangible experience we cannot get from a book or on a screen.”
Director's Letter

Carol Ely, Ph.D., Executive Director – Historic Locust Grove

Five years ago, we were deep in the research for the re-restoration and re-interpreation of the interior of William Croghan’s 1799 mansion house. We combined research in letters, letters, memoirs, and ledgers with the physical evidence from the house itself – paint colors, wallpaper scraps, nail holes and more. The updated version of the historic house was as close as we could get to the house that William and Lucy would have known.

Now, we’ve embarked on a similar process for the 55 acres remaining of Croghan’s Locust Grove. It’s a harder challenge.

At the start of our Master Plan process, a surveyor first correlated old and new maps and showed us where roads and structures were once located. Some of those paths and buildings probably related to later use of the site by others – but which ones? What could aerial photos tell us about where farm fields were located? Ornamental gardens? The archaeologists started their study with existing information. What had been surveyed, excavated, recorded since the 1960’s? What did we know from oral histories, memories of neighbors, and interviews with the Thomas brothers? Did this answer any questions about the route of the roads, the source of the bricks, who dug the well? The archaeologists followed up by digging sample pits, looking for artifacts, walls, and foundations — any clues to layers of the past.

The staff searched for information from documents and from comparable historic landscapes and homes in our area. What do the Croghans tell us about what they grew, what they valued, what they ate, who they imported, how they gardened? What did the enslaved people do, and where did they live? What trees grew here, and which were useful around the farm and in constructing the house?

We still aren’t sure where the slave dwellings were located, but we recently found a tantalizing clue in the subtle shifts in elevation and the lines of the trees near the main house. Did Locust Grove have its equivalent to Thomas Jefferson’s Mulberry Row at Monticello?

We aren’t sure where the main approach road from the river reached the house — but the very impressive stone wall on the west and south of the house is telling us something about how Croghan wanted his fine house to be seen. Locust Grove was a working farm, with all the smells and messiness this entails. But more than that, it was a gentleman’s country seat, a place of classical symmetry and aspirations to beauty and order. How do we reconcile these? How did Croghan?

Our Master Plan, ready this winter, will give us some new directions for reading and interpreting this important landscape.

Locust Grove’s Master Plan Committee

Chair: Kate Dalton Boyer
Members: Dalton Boyer, Jeanie Litterst Vezeau, Mary Beth Williams
Consultants: Corn Island Archaeology; Environ, Inc.; Gresham Smith; John Milner Associates; Solid Light

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Great Parlor Ready for Artist to Paint Lucy’s Portrait

Step into Locust Grove’s Great Parlor and travel back to November 1820. That’s when William and Lucy Croghan had their portraits painted by noted artist John Wesley Jarvis—most likely in Locust Grove’s second-floor parlor.

John Wesley Jarvis (1780-1840) from Philadelphia was a well-known portrait painter and engraver. After receiving the commission to paint the Croghans, Jarvis and his apprentice, Henry Inman, traveled to Louisville with William and Lucy’s second son, George Croghan. They took the newly completed road to Wheeling, W. Va., and completed their journey to Louisville via the Ohio River. Jarvis and Inman most likely stayed with the Croghans while they were in the process of painting the portraits.

Locust Grove Summer Intern Kaitlyn Markert curated this exhibit. Kaitlyn had a photo of William’s portrait printed on canvas for this exhibit. It’s on the settee as if it had just been completed. Around the room are other items that would have been used by the artist and his apprentice:

- Lucy collar and cap, ready for Lucy to don for her painting session.
- The easel, which closely resembles those used in the 18th and 19th centuries. The canvas on the easel is blank, as if Jarvis is preparing the canvas for Lucy’s portrait.
- Jars of various sizes. Since Jarvis and Inman would have created their own paints, the larger jars would contain binder and thinner; the smaller jars, the various elements used to create the paint colors. Pigments often came from plants, herbs, rocks/minerals, and even chemicals.

It Was A Busy Summer, Indeed

Picnic with Children’s Museum

Locust Grove teamed up with Louisville Children’s Museum for a Sunday picnic at the Grove. Visitors could create their own T-shirts, the Louisville Leopard Percussion Band entertained, the house was open for tours, and families could picnic on the lawn—either with food brought home or purchased from food trucks and vendors.

George Croghan Day

Brian Cushing, reenactor and curator of the “George Croghan: Fallen Hero” exhibit, portrayed Col. George Croghan returning to Locust Grove in 1812 to celebrate his victorious defense of Fort Stephenson against attack by British forces. On August 3, Brian as George Croghan regaled visitors with stories of his exploits of war on the frontier.

Biggest Used Book Sale to date!

The hunt is on! And there were hundreds of successful hunters at the Used Book Sale the last weekend in August. We had more than 21,000 books for sale—sorted and priced to sell. It was the best Used Book Sale to date, earning some $4,000 for Locust Grove’s educational and interpretation programs.

2013-2014 EMILIE STRONG SMITH CHAMBER MUSIC SERIES

Concerts featuring Locust Grove’s 1906 Broadwood Fortepiano, a visit from a noted harpist, and a concert by the Kentucky Center Chamber Players are some of the highlights of this season’s Emilie Strong Smith Chamber Music Series at Locust Grove. The concert series celebrates its 50th anniversary this season.

The chamber music series allows you to experience music much as the Croghans and Clarks would have. The first three concerts of the season will be held in the historic house. Refreshments are served downstairs at 5:00 p.m.; the concerts begin at 5:30 p.m. in the second-floor Great Parlor. The last concert of the season in April will be held in the Visitors’ Center Audubon Room.

Season’s subscriptions are available. Seating is limited, so order now! Patron, $200; Supporter, $150; Season Subscriber, $165. Individual tickets for each concert are $20 each. Call (502) 897-9845 for information or to purchase season tickets.

Musical for an Autumn Afternoon

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3
REFRENSMENTS, 5 PM; CONCERT, 5:30 PM
VISITORS’ CENTER

The Locust Grove Chamber Musicians will play a cheerful mix of Celtic and pioneer-era Kentucky favorites on strings and fortepiano. It will feature music by Niet Gow, Andrew Dewalt, Turlough O’Carolan, and Stephen Foster.

Christmas During the War of 1812

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8
REFRENSMENTS, 5 PM; CONCERT, 5:30 PM

The War of 1812 lasted until 1814 and included two Christmas seasons. The Locust Grove Chamber Musicians present a program from that era, with reflections on what the Christmas season was like on the banks of the Ohio in frontier Kentucky.

Tartine de Beurre

SUNDAY, MARCH 23
REFRENSMENTS, 5 PM; CONCERT, 5:30 PM

This is an evening with Paula Fagerburg, one of the foremost exponents of the historic harp. Lively and irrepressible, she will treat us to a concert in honor of Serena Livingston Croghan, who is pictured with her harp in the lovely portrait at Locust Grove. Includes music of Rossi, Galilei, Caroso, Mozart, and others.

Kentucky Center Chamber Players

SUNDAY, APRIL 13
REFRENSMENTS, 5 PM; CONCERT, 5:30 PM

The Kentucky Center Chamber Players perform music from Saint-Saens, Thompson, and Faure. **NOTE:** This concert will be held in the Audubon Room of the Visitors’ Center.

Make Learning Fun

Kids at Locust Grove’s two camps this summer may have come for the fun, but left with insights into early American life and a new-found appreciation for what goes into making paper and books.

The week-long “Nature Camp,” created with the Jefferson County Memorial Forest, helped campers discover what life was like on the frontier. They heard from a “settler,” whose expertise with a gun was crucial to his survival. They also tracked “wild animals” in Locust Grove’s woods—experienced Native American hunting and survival techniques cooked over a hearth fire, and made other discoveries that took the campers back to the early 1800s.

The two-day “Craft Camp” focused on techniques required to make a book—from making paper to decorating it to creating the cover, printing, and binding. At the end of the two days, they took home a book that they had created.
Friends of Locust Grove

Enrollment/ Renewal from July 1 through September 15, 2013

A HEARTY “THANK YOU” TO ALL OF THESE PEOPLE WHO RECENTLY JOINED OR RENEWED THEIR MEMBERSHIPS DURING JULY, AUGUST, AND SEPTEMBER. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BECOME A FRIEND, PLEASE GO ONLINE TO WWW.LOCUSGROVE.ORG, OR CALL US AT (859) 605-9949 FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS.

Donations received from July 1 through September 15, 2013

MANY THANKS TO THE HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE WHO SUPPORT HISTORIC LOCUST GROVE THROUGH DONATIONS AND MEMBERSHIPS. WE DEPEND UPON AND GREATLY APPRECIATE YOUR GENEROSITY AND UNDERSTANDING.

Bill Bauer

The Year: 1983

The Site: The Louisville home of Emile Strong Smith, accompanied by Susan Riegler.

The Purpose: Start a chamber music series to be held in Locust Grove’s Great Parlor.

The Clincher: A basket of Emmy Smith’s warm, homemade blackberry muffins.

And for 30 years, the Emile Strong Smith Chamber Music Series at Locust Grove has grown and thrived—thanks to the enterprise and talents of this quarter’s Spirit Award winner, Bill Bauer.

For three decades, Bill has been coordinating our concerts—determining the dates, working with Locust Grove to choose the themes, and finding the musicians for the four concerts each season. Bill tries to be a part of at least one concert each season—and often more.

“The music is designed to be what the Crohpans could have heard while living in the house,” explains Bill. “We focus on music from 1600 to 1840, concentrating on the period from the French and Indian War to 1830, with a few exceptions.”

One of the musical treasures at Locust Grove is the 1806 Broadwood fortepiano, which is often played during the concerts. For some 20 years, Bill has been the one to tune the fortepiano and make sure it is in perfect working order.
**Tenth Annual 18th Century Market Fair**

**SATURDAY AND SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26 AND 27**

10:00 AM — 4:30 PM, BOTH DAYS

It's the 10th year for Locust Grove's 18th Century Market Fair, and the thrills continue! The Amazing Budabi Brothers will be tossing their flaming torches to each other. Commonstock, with their hobby horse costumes and puppets, will make you laugh. Lisette LeFoux will ply her Tarot cards to predict your future. Silas Moore will be delighted to show you the rat he caught, and Maggie Delaney will be slaving away at her huge, cast-iron washtub. Rod Smothers will be breaking flax to prepare it for spinning the fibers into linen thread. And Hen House Forge will demonstrate the skill and strength it takes to be a blacksmith.

Of course, British, American, Hessian, and Scottish soldiers and their families will be camping on the grounds, ready to show you what soldiering is all about — including mock battles filled with noise, guns, cannons, and lots of smoke. Merchants and food vendors will tempt with goods and treats that are hard to resist. Admission is $6 for adults, $3 for children ages 6–12, and free for children 5 and under. Admission includes a tour of the historic house museum and is good for both days of the fair.