

HISTORIC LOCUST GROVE GROVE GAZETTE



Master Plan Takes Locust Grove Into the Future

Creating a plan for the future is an exciting but daunting task. It requires visionary thinking, facing cold realities, and balancing competing values, hope, and risk.

Last May, the Historic Locust Grove governing board approved a Master Plan that had been years in the making — from initial “community conversations” through surveys and mapping to the final draft.

A small committee guided the work of a consultant team (*see sidebar*) to produce the Master Plan report, which is available online at <http://locustgrove.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/LocustGroveMASTER-PLAN.pdf>. Many of the ideas have been under discussion for years, while others emerged from the process of discussion as well as the consultants’ research and insights.

The plan is not a radical document. The planning team was always mindful of preserving and conserving the unique setting of a late 18th century Kentucky house on acres of its original land — “a place of national significance with significant resources of exceptional quality and integrity.”

The goal was to design a Locust Grove for a 21st century audience — focusing on historic resource preservation; public education and enlightenment in the broadest sense; and effective operations for outstanding visitor services.

Beauty, pleasure, and delight are part of the mix, as are insight, empathy, and curiosity.

The plan creates zones to protect historic structures. Major festivals and events will move north near the Visitors’ Center, with a semi-permanent tent pad as a base.



Visitors will arrive at the site through a drive moved slightly to the east (toward the house) for better sight lines, and they’ll park in a revamped lot.

The existing Visitors’ Center will be upgraded, rearranged, and expanded slightly to the north towards the field. This new space will allow room for an improved museum store, classroom and workshop space, and an area for temporary exhibits or presentations.

Access to the 55 acres will be easier with a new path system. A formal symmetrical path will surround the house and gardens. Other more informal paths will wind through gardens, fields, and woods. The woods will be gradually restored as we continue to remove invasive species. Archaeological sites will be protected and, when possible, investigated.



Gardens, farming activities, and areas for visitor interaction will vary the landscape. Programming of all kinds will be created to expand upon existing interpretation of farm life and the food of the period, as well as on the American Revolution and post-Revolutionary America.

The outcome of Locust Grove’s Master Plan won’t be a new Locust Grove or a bigger Locust Grove. It will be a **better** Locust Grove.

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Grove Gazette is published quarterly by Historic Locust Grove, Inc. for members, volunteers and supporters of Historic Locust Grove. © 2014
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www.locustgrove.org

The mission of Historic Locust Grove is to preserve and interpret the remaining 55-acres of William Croghan's estate, Locust Grove, with its circa 1792 house, outbuildings, collection and grounds as examples of early 19th-century frontier America, and to share the stories of the many people who contributed to the history of the site, emphasizing the experiences of George Rogers Clark, Revolutionary War hero and founder of Louisville.

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Director's Letter Carol Ely, Ph.D.

"Life is what happens to you while you're busy making other plans,"

as the saying goes. And while we were busy Master-Planning the future of our 55-acre site, the historic house reminded us very dramatically about what's most important to preserve. A leak developed in the ceiling of the "rose room" or "best guest room" that is next to the Great Parlor on the second floor.

An air-conditioning unit in the house's attic had malfunctioned and sent a slow and growing drip down to the plaster ceiling of the room an entire floor below, which cracked and started to bulge.

Fortunately a docent spotted the problem when the crack first developed, and the staff quickly cleared the room of all of the movable furnishings and objects (including the beautiful serpentine chest!). Plastic went down on the floor before the serious drips started.

The custom-woven wool rug did get a little wet. But we slit it along the seam lines and peeled it back to dry. The only casualty was the rug's under-padding, which we cut away so the wood floor could dry. Fans and a dehumidifier are still working to dry out the room as I write this in late September.

Metro Parks sent contractors to repair the attic unit and plasterers came to assess the ceiling damage. A section about eight feet by eight feet will have to be replaced; but that area of the ceiling has to be opened up and dried out before the repairs can begin. The room will be off limits to visitors for an indefinite time. (But, just in time, images and descriptions of every room are now available on our new website).

While no serious damage appears to have been done to the collections or to the structure, this is a real wake-up call about the pressing need to replace aging infrastructure. The house's heating, ventilation, and air-conditioning system badly needs updating to modern safety standards. And we need to complete work to seal the building's "envelope" — the outer perimeter — more effectively. In addition, a new roof must be installed sooner rather than later.

In partnership with Metro Parks, we have a responsibility to do all that we can to ensure that this important National Historic Landmark structure survives into another century. We have funding to begin the repairs with support from Metro Council, and the rest may very well depend upon you!

We'll be in touch...



P.S. The final tally on attendance for this summer's Cultural Pass program — 1,934 visitors comprised of 1,204 kids accompanied by 730 adults! It was a very busy summer. (As I described in the last Gazette — Cultural Pass was a special summertime program where Jefferson County students could visit many local historic sites and museums for free when accompanied by an adult.)



NEW LOCUST GROVE HOURS IN 2015

Next year, we'll add an hour to our schedule from Memorial Day to Labor Day. And we'll be open on Thursday evenings during the summer for special programs, to be announced.

February 1 to Memorial Day and Labor Day through December 30

MONDAY-SATURDAY, 10 AM — 4:30 PM
SUNDAY, 1 PM — 4:30 PM

Memorial Day to Labor Day

MONDAY — SATURDAY, 10 AM TO 5:30 PM
SUNDAY, 1 PM TO 5:30 PM

NOTE: We're closed during January and on most major holidays. If unsure, check our website: www.locustgrove.org.

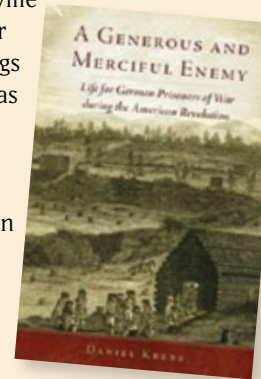
First Wednesday Lecture Series

Our lecture series offers a variety of interesting speakers and unusual topics that relate to the lives of the Croghans, Clarks, and the region. Lectures are held on the first Wednesday of each month, except for January and May. Desserts and beverages are served at 1:00 p.m., with the lecture immediately following. Admission is \$5, or \$3 for Friends of Locust Grove.

'A Generous and Merciful Enemy'

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 1 PM

University of Louisville Associate Professor Daniel Krebs brings to light what life was like in captivity for German (Hessian) prisoners of war during the American Revolution. Thousands of the 37,000 soldiers from six German principalities were imprisoned by the American revolutionaries. Krebs also will explain the motivations of the German states that provided these contract soldiers for the British army. After the lecture, he'll be glad to sign copies of his new book — *A Generous and Merciful Enemy: Life for German Prisoners of War During the American Revolution*.




Annual Holiday Concert
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3, 1 PM

Locust Grove's traditional holiday kick-off brings back the popular players of the **Louisville Dulcimer Society**. Members play holiday favorites on Kentucky's official musical instrument — the Appalachian lap dulcimer — along with banjos, hammered dulcimer, a washtub bass, fiddle, guitar, and more as the audience is invited to sing along. Be sure to arrive early to get your seat and enjoy the seasonal treats prepared especially for you by the Lecture Bakers.

18th Century Market Fair

SATURDAY & SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25 & 26
See story on back cover for details.

Chamber Music Concerts

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 5:30 PM
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7, 5:30 PM
See page 5 for details.

Museum Store Holiday Sale

FRIDAY, NOV. 28 — SUNDAY, DEC. 7
DURING REGULAR VISITORS' CENTER HOURS
For special Christmas gifts without traffic hassles, visit our museum store. For 10 days after Thanksgiving, you'll receive a 20 percent discount on all purchases. The museum store carries a wide array of books, toys, stationary and Kentucky-made products. The museum store is open Monday through Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and on Sundays, 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Christmastide at Locust Grove

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5, 5:30 PM—9 PM
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6, 4 PM — 9 PM
Enter the year 1816 for a Croghan family celebration at Locust Grove. The Clark and Croghan families invite you into their home to visit and to partake of holiday cheer.

The home is decorated in a manner appropriate for the "country seat" of Major William Croghan and his distinguished relatives and guests. In the great parlor, live music and dancing await the guests, intermingled with concerts by a talented neighbor. You'll be engaged in lively conversations with family and guests.

Out in the hearth kitchen, recently harvested foods are prepared over an open fire and refreshments are offered to guests.

Meanwhile, back in 2014 — in the Visitors' Center, there will be dancing, music, refreshments, and crafts for children 3 and older from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. both days.

Admission: \$6 adults, \$3 children, or \$18 maximum per household. Free for children under 6.

Lyman C. Draper Manuscripts

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2015, 1 PM

Join the Filson Historical Society's Curator of Collections **Jim Holmberg** as he brings a tale of adventure to our lecture series. He'll relate the story of Lyman Draper, who intended to

chronicle the lives of the pioneers of the "First American West," especially George Rogers Clark and Daniel Boone. Draper visited Kentucky and other states beginning in the 1840s in search of the

sources needed for his work. He interviewed people and kept extensive correspondence in search of information. But he never wrote the stories. And now, these Draper Manuscripts are one of the most significant collections of primary source material about the history of the First West and its people.





Underground Railroad Myths & Truths

MYTH: Only male slaves escaped to freedom.

TRUTH: Many escaped slaves were female. Others escaped as families, hoping to stay together.

MYTH: Runaway slaves traveled only by foot, using secret tunnels and rooms to hide.

TRUTH: They did travel by foot, but they sometimes travelled by steamboat, train and covered wagon.

MYTH: Families in the South were pro-slavery; families in the North were anti-slavery.

TRUTH: There was disagreement within regions, states, and even families.

MYTH: There were direct routes for fugitive slaves to follow.

TRUTH: Most fugitive slaves had to figure out which way to go on their own.

MYTH: Freedom papers ensured that African-Americans would stay free for the rest of their lives.

TRUTH: If freed slaves lost their papers or if slave catchers stole the papers, they would be sold back into slavery.

MYTH: The Underground Railroad was a system where abolitionists helped weak slaves escape.

TRUTH: Runaway slaves were extremely smart and often thought of their own plans.

MYTH: The only people who helped slaves on their way to freedom were white abolitionists.

TRUTH: Most of the people who helped fugitives reach freedom were African-Americans. There were often free African-American communities near Quaker communities.

Locust Grove Costumed Interpreter Creates Extraordinary Interactive Production

"Faces of Freedom: Preserving the Stories of the Underground Railroad" by 15-year-old Kentucky Country Day sophomore **Catherine Bache** took the audience on a journey from slavery to freedom.

Participants became freed African-Americans on a journey back to the South to find still-enslaved family members and lead them to freedom.

They walked across fields and up and down hills; hid in basement, farmhouse, and barn under the protection of Quakers; survived encounters with a vicious bounty hunter; met with an emancipated former slave; received encouragement from an abolitionist and his family; celebrated with two freed relatives; and met the founder of a female anti-slavery society. All characters were based on historical people.

Catherine researched, developed, cast, directed, produced, performed in, and hosted this production. It is a major part of her project to receive the Girl Scout Gold Award, the organization's highest achievement.

"I became interested in the Underground Railroad after a field trip in the sixth grade," Catherine says. "I was fascinated with the stories of the people who tried to escape slavery and with those who risked their own lives to help runaway slaves reach freedom.

"Since the Underground Railroad comes with myths and misconceptions, my goal with this project is to help educate others by discussing the truths. Our understanding of the present can be greatly enhanced by studying the past."

Catherine caught the history bug when she attended Locust Grove's Candlelight (now called Christmastide) in elementary school. "I was mesmerized by the cast and the event, itself," she recalls. "I remember learning about Peggy Chenoweth's scalping and dancing with Zachary Taylor. I'm so proud that now I'm a part of the cast."

Catherine has been in Girl Scouting since she was in first grade. It's always been her goal to earn the Girl Scout Gold Award. And she's well on the way to earning it with this production.

"From the time that the Gold Award committee approved my project in July, I have already spent nearly 200 hours on the project," she adds.

Researchers have not found any evidence that Locust Grove participated in the Underground Railroad. But Catherine was delighted that she could use Locust Grove's buildings and scenery as a backdrop.

The two September performances at Locust Grove were sold out, and there was a waiting list. And so,

the performers have agreed to do two encore performances at Locust Grove on Saturday, November 8 at 3:30 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. The entire production also will be presented in October at a house that was on the Underground Railroad in Ripley, Ohio.

After the final performances, Catherine will give the scripts to the National Park Service's "Network to Freedom," which will make her production available to sites across the country.

At the conclusion of the performance, she related the accomplishments of the historical characters being portrayed. She also pointed out that slavery is still very much in evidence today — particularly through human trafficking.

The audience left with a list of myths and truths about both the Underground Railroad and human trafficking. And also with the conviction that Catherine Bache has a great future before her.



Catherine Bache (center) and Julia Bache talk to Brian West who played escaped slave William Wells Brown.

Faces of Freedom

Preserving the Stories of the Underground Railroad

Encore Presentation
Historic Locust Grove
Saturday, November 8
3:30 PM and 5:30 PM

Admission \$10
Space is limited
Contact Locust Grove
for reservations
(502) 897-9845



Spirit Award Winner: Greg Hudson

If you've ever attended Locust Grove's Spring Encampment or 18th Century Market Fair, you've seen this quarter's Spirit Award Winner, **Greg Hudson**.

In fact, it's hard to miss the tall figure in the Revolutionary War uniform and tri-corner hat — assembling his men, leading them into battle, or recruiting young boys and girls who eagerly volunteer to "be a soldier" and learn to march.

For nearly 24 years, Greg has helped to make military re-enactments at Locust Grove authentic and true to the spirit of George Rogers Clark's Illinois Regiment of Virginia — the regiment that Clark led during the American Revolution.

"Our company, which formed in 1982, is one of four in the Illinois Regiment," Greg says. "But the four companies in the regiment didn't work together until we had that first Spring Encampment at Locust Grove in about 1990. That's one reason why this beautiful site is so special to me."

Greg is an Indiana native, Purdue University grad, and Erlanger, Ky., resident. He first visited Locust Grove more than a quarter of a century ago while on a weekend trip to discover Louisville and Bardstown.

"The docent who guided us through the house noticed my period haversack and asked if I were a reenactor," Greg recalls. "When I said yes, she introduced me to the then-program manager — and the rest is history. Whoever that docent was, I thank her profusely!"

A master leather craftsman, Greg owns Weeping Heart Trade Company with his wife, Julie, where they make and sell beautiful, historically accurate leather goods and clothing.

It's Greg's desire to teach people — especially kids — about military history and George



Rogers Clark's amazing story that keeps him going.

"The Regiment and I are like the Post Office — neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night will keep us from teaching history at the 'Grove.' And we've seen plenty of wild weather over the years," he laughs. "And the opportunity to teach in such a setting truly is an honor."

HLG Curator of Collections and Education **Mary Beth Williams** says she really appreciates Greg's passion for history.

"As a re-enactor, Greg ensures every last detail is historically accurate — from his own uniform to the skirmishes the re-enactors recreate for visitors at the encampments," Mary Beth adds. "This passion and knowledge of history clearly shows through to the school kids and visitors who come here to experience a bit of the Revolutionary War in 21st-century Louisville."

2014–2015 EMILIE STRONG SMITH CHAMBER MUSIC SERIES

Locust Grove's Emilie Strong Smith Chamber Music Series offers concertgoers a unique opportunity. Patrons delight in music that the Clarks and Croghans would have heard in the room where they most likely would have enjoyed it — the second-floor Great Parlor of the historic house. Refreshments are at 5:00 p.m.; the concert in Locust Grove's Great Parlor begins at 5:30 p.m.

Season subscriptions may be purchased by calling Locust Grove at (502) 897-9845. Categories are Patron, \$200; Supporter, \$100; and Subscriber, \$70. Individual concerts are \$20 each. Please join us!

The Wedding of Venice to the Sea

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 5:30 PM

Ars Antigua presents Music of the Venetian school including Marini, Falconieri, Uccellini, Geminiani, and Vivaldi.

Sweet Was the Song the Virgin Sang

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7, 5:30 PM

The Locust Grove Chamber Musicians present English, Scottish, and Early American Yuletide music.



The Locust Grove Chamber Musicians will perform at two Emilie Strong Smith Chamber Music Concerts this season.

Moscow on the Seine

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2015, 5:30 PM

The Locust Grove Chamber Musicians present a program of French and Russian chamber music from the time of the Napoleonic wars.

Ayers and Arias from the 17th Century

SUNDAY, MARCH 29, 2015, 5:30 PM

Such Sweete Melodie presents music of Merula, Schmelzer, Monteverdi, and Campion.

Locust Grove's Dairy is Being Restored



That square stone building just outside the hearth kitchen and a few steps away from the well is a reconstructed dairy — the place where the Croghans' milk would have been stored and cheese would have been made. But it hasn't been a vital part of the interpretation of Locust Grove — until now.

Locust Grove Weekend Manager (and former intern) **Hannah Zimmerman** has been researching 18th and 19th century dairy practices and making suggestions "to bring our dairy out of the blahs and back into the tidy splendor of the late 1790s/early 1800s when William and Lucy Croghan were in residence."

She has learned that period dairies needed to be clean and cool, with floors made of wood, stone, or tile so they could be easily cleaned. "Ours had a floor of dirt; but now we've installed a floor made of reclaimed wood — making us one step closer to a dairy the Croghan family might recognize."

Dairies during this time period typically had two rows of shelves — one about waist-high from which to work; and one overhead for storing cheeses, pans of milk, and other items. Those shelves also have been added to Locust Grove's dairy.

She's also discovered an oddity with our dairy. "Dairies 200 years ago usually were constructed of wood or brick," Hannah points out. "But 50-plus years ago, when Locust Grove was being restored, they reconstructed our dairy from stone to match the rebuilt kitchen and residence and the original smokehouse.

"We know the Croghans had a dairy; archaeologists unearthed the foundation. But archaeological and other records have given us little else about what it actually looked like," Hannah adds.

She stresses that Locust Grove safeguards the historical integrity of the site and is as accurate as possible to the time period and the records that are available. "Our dairy is the same size and shape as an 18th century dairy should be."

There's one element that still puzzles Locust Grove's researchers. "We can't explain — or fix — the vertical wall slits," Hannah says. "Air circulation was paramount to running a successful dairy. Typically, this was achieved with horizontal vents at the top of the structure that were latticed and screened with muslin. We just don't know why our dairy was built with vertical slits."

As soon as the work is completed on the restoration of Locust Grove's dairy, it will become a part of our site interpretation and put to use during special events.

*Thanks to **LaMar Gaston** for his leadership in raising funds for this restoration. A list of these donors will appear in the next **Gazette**.*

August Book Sale Was Great!



We opened the doors on Thursday evening for the Members' Preview with nearly 22,000 books — and closed up late on Sunday afternoon some 17,000 books lighter and \$26,483 happier. The August Used Book Sale was second-highest in sales to date.

"We could not be so successful without the hundreds of

volunteer hours donated by our energetic and enthusiastic book sorters and sale workers," says HLG Executive Director **Carol Ely**. "But we still have costs — items like buying the sturdy, stackable boxes in which we store our sorted books, and moving and storing those hundreds of boxes."

That's where sponsorship of the Used Book Sales comes in. "Sponsorships can range from \$100 to \$1,000," Carol explains. "By underwriting our costs, sale proceeds can go directly to support our educational and preservation projects."

If you'd like information on underwriting our Used Book Sales or on donating books, please call Locust Grove at (502) 897-9845.

Donate to Locust Grove via 'AmazonSmile'

Is Amazon your go-to online "store"? If so, you can help support Locust Grove while you shop with the new "Amazon Smile" charitable-giving program from

Amazon.com. Just register for Amazon Smile, — it's free — at www.smile.amazon.com. Then search for "Historic Locust Grove" to make sure your



purchases are credited to Locust Grove. You also can use the direct link for Locust Grove at <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/61-1390403>. Locust

Grove will receive 0.5 percent of the total purchases you make, every time you shop at Amazon. No cost to you; a great plus for Locust Grove!

Want to Visit Ireland With Locust Grove?

Locust Grove may offer an exclusive tour of Ireland next year, which would include visits to areas that William Croghan would have known before coming to America in 1769. To gauge interest, we've asked just four questions on the "SurveyMonkey" site at www.surveymonkey.com/s/WF3GJCN. The survey is very short and we'd really appreciate your thoughts. Thanks!

Friends of Locust Grove

Enrollment/Renewal from July 1 through September 15, 2014

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 WOULD 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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In Memoriam

◀ **Dr. Condict Moore** ▶
◀ **Melzie Wilson** ▶

We note with sadness the recent deaths of members of our Locust Grove family. We treasure their generous contributions to Locust Grove of their time, energy, support, and enthusiasm. Thank you.

Thanks to Our Recent Donors

Donations received from July 1 through September 15, 2014

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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For people donating \$250 and up to Historic Locust Grove from July 1 through September 15, 2014.

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Mr. & Mrs. LaMar Gaston, Jr.

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Clark Family Society (\$1,000—2,499)
Sally Campbell

Illinois Regiment Society (up to \$999)
Mr. & Mrs. Robert H. Means Jr.
Barbara & Robert Roberts
Dr. & Mrs. A. B. Hoskins III
Sally & Stanley Macdonald
Jill Cooper
Charles Dorenkott

CORRECTION

In our last issue, the professional affiliation of an incoming Board member was listed incorrectly. **Jill H. Cooper** is a private banker with Commonwealth Bank & Trust.

Check Out Locust Grove's New Website!

Locust Grove's website — www.locustgrove.org — has a new look and a ton of information! Get a month-by-month listing of events. Take a virtual tour of the house, with descriptions for each room. Learn about the family, or restoration projects, or slavery. Get details on renting the facilities. See how to book a school tour. View volunteer opportunities. Become a member.

And now there's a behind-the-scenes look via a blog, thanks to Weekend Manager **Hannah Zimmerman**. She'll be posting short articles and photos several times a week. Check it out at: <http://locustgrovelouisville.wordpress.com> and then come for a visit. We'd love to see you.



Historic Locust Grove
561 Blankenbaker Lane
Louisville, KY 40207
(502) 897-9845
www.locustgrove.org



Locust Grove is accredited
by the American Alliance
of Museums.



Locust Grove is owned by
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[Fall 2014]

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18th Century Market Fair

**SATURDAY AND SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25 AND 26
10 AM — 4:30 PM BOTH DAYS**

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.



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 excitement. Merchants and food vendors will tempt with goods and treats that are hard to resist. Admission is \$8 for adults, \$4 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.



HISTORIC LOCUST GROVE

GROVE GAZETTE