

HISTORIC LOCUST GROVE GROVE GAZETTE



'History' Changes as Research Reveals Shocking New Details

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

Never. Stop. Learning.

At the heart of what we do at Locust Grove lies research. The best true stories that we can tell our audiences can amaze and enlighten, illuminate and enthrall, and help people understand the remarkable personalities and connections with history that Locust Grove encompasses.

Fortunately, truth is better than fiction. In the past few weeks we've been lucky to see the fruits of research in various ways.

In March, the irreplaceable **Gwynne Potts**, a longtime Locust Grove leader, gave the most delightful lecture that I think we've ever presented here — "The Very Rich and Scandalous Miss Croghan." Gwynne's research began with a story that we thought we knew (though we don't tell it enough!) about the notorious elopement of Mary Croghan (daughter of William Croghan Jr. and Mary O'Hara) and a Capt. Edward Schenley.

The scandal: Miss Croghan, vastly rich heiress to her mother's family fortune, was only 14 years old and Mr. Schenley was 42 when she ran away from boarding school and off to England with him. The family was devastated and enraged. And yet the Schenleys' apparently happy marriage lasted through eight children and life on several continents.

But who *was* Schenley, really? Calling him "a serial eloper," Gwynne led us through Schenley's many changes of name, various incredibly lucrative and fortuitous marriages, dubious claims of royal connections — and Mary's surprising duplicity. The impeccable and complex research that went into this story is worthy of telling at length, so we'll find a way to publish this story and bring you the full version.

The second generation of Croghans is more interesting than we usually have time to tell. But recent archival work in family letters is so compelling that we'll have to find new ways of presenting them.



The elopement of Captain Edward Schenley (42) and Mary Croghan (14) shocked society.



George Croghan's life was even more tragic than we knew.

Take George Croghan, for example, Lucy and William Croghan's second son. We thought we knew the heartache he caused his family through his drinking, lying, and gambling; but we hardly knew the half of it.

New transcriptions of letters that had previously been assembled and partially transcribed as part of our research library have been examined anew, transcribed in full, and assembled in chronological order by Locust Grove's Archival Consultant **Kaitlyn Markert**. Her work has been supported by generous donors who are just as curious as the staff and docents are to learn more!

Revelations in those letters include details of George's suicide attempt, along with the family's anguish. His gambling, public drunkenness, and embezzlement now appear in their full tragic and pathetic form — fully consuming his family's time, money, and honor.

The Jesups (George's sister Ann and husband Thomas) went deeply into debt bailing him out. They sacrificed the education of their children and mortgaged and sold family lands. Ann blamed George's wife, Serena, for the troubles — and Serena finally left George. All the sordid detail. And we're only partway through the letters!

What was left out of the earlier partial transcriptions includes family debates and quarrels, news about the farm and garden crops, references to the enslaved workers, political discussions, and more.

Our story becomes much more nuanced and detailed with every expanded letter. Who knew, for instance, that William Croghan Jr. dreamed of flocks of Merino sheep grazing the hills of Locust Grove?

The Croghans show their humanity, complexity, pettiness, generosity, and passion through their own words and deeds. And we know the Croghans even better now — through research.

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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.



Possible site of Croghan Mill

Possible stone foundation of mill complex

Possible millrace

Recently I had the privilege of tramping through the mud and bush honeysuckle of the Muddy Fork of the Beargrass Creek in adjacent Riverwood, looking for the site of the Croghan mill. And I think we've found it!

Traces of building foundations and the course of the millrace ditch are still just barely discernable through the undergrowth. The Croghan mill ground the neighborhood corn along with the crops of Locust Grove, some of which might have been used for farm-scale distilling on the property.

We know that the structures now on Locust Grove's property — original and reconstructed — are just a few of the many farm buildings that once existed at Locust Grove. After all, we only have 55 of the original nearly 700 acres. Somewhere out there — under turf, or pavement or someone's ko pond — are the apple house, the stables, a carriage house, Croghan's freestanding surveying office, and the slave quarters. Some locations are known or suspected; but some are still a mystery.

Research by Corn Island Archaeology has pinpointed a "hot spot" — an area of concentrated artifacts that suggest the presence of a formerly unknown building — on the grounds near the main house. We need to know more. Corn Island will be back this spring to use remote sensing technologies to search for the outline of a structure and will follow up by excavating trenches.

It's exciting to know just how much is still unknown, still to be discovered. When we do learn new information, we revise our interpretation accordingly. Often the new story is much more interesting than the old story.

Sometimes a question leads to new knowledge. For example, when sceptics had difficulty believing that William Croghan really wanted his walls to be an intense shade of verdigris green, research in store accounts at the Filson Historical Society by our own indefatigable **Lynn Renau** turned up Croghan's 1806 purchase of 7-1/2 pounds of verdigris! Rarely does the documentary evidence match the physical evidence with such singular beauty!

Sometimes you have to get into the mud and sometimes you have to read between the lines in order to learn the truth about the past. But it's always worthwhile.

Shop at Kroger? You Can Support Locust Grove!

If you sign up for "Kroger Community Rewards" on Kroger's website and designate Historic Locust Grove as your charity, each of your purchases at Kroger benefits Locust Grove at no cost to you. In the last quarter, with just 19 households designating Locust Grove as their charity, we received a donation from Kroger of \$115!

Think what would happen if more of our supporters signed on! Won't you take a moment to visit www.kroger.com/communityrewards and register your card? And thanks to all of you who have!



Summer Fun for Kids!

Camp Shakespeare at Locust Grove

Monday, June 8–Friday, June 12
Half-Day, 9 AM–Noon;
Full-Day, 9 AM–4 PM
Ages 7-15



Kentucky Shakespeare is offering a unique camp experience at Locust Grove. The aspiring thespian-campers will get an introduction to theatre and to Shakespeare's works. Campers will learn how to build an ensemble-based performance piece through collaboration and teamwork. The camp will be customized to the theatrical experience of each camper and is open to children ages 7 – 15. Full-day campers should bring a sack lunch. *\$100 for the half-day session; \$175 for the full-day session. For further information or to register, call Kentucky Shakespeare at (502) 574-9900 or email education@kyshakespeare.com. Registration deadline is June 1.*

Nature Camp at Locust Grove

Sponsored by Jefferson Memorial Forest
Monday, Aug. 3 –Thursday, Aug. 6
9 AM–4 PM • Ages 7-12

Travel back more than 200 years to discover nature and people through Locust Grove. Track native wild animals, experience Native American hunting and survival techniques, and discover what life was like in the 18th century for the first European settlers and Native Americans. This hands-on nature camp will take campers on an adventure back in time! Campers should bring a sack lunch.

NOTE: *There will be a shuttle to take campers to Locust Grove and back from George Rogers Clark Park on Poplar Level Road. Price per child for the camp, \$195; optional shuttle service for the four days of the camp, \$30 per camper. Register for the camp and the shuttle service by calling Jefferson Memorial Forest's Welcome Center, (502) 368-5404.*



New Features, Exhibitors Bring Excitement to 20th Annual Gardeners' Fair

Native plants. Chickens. Organic gardening. Pruning. Composting. Beneficial bugs. Beehives and honey. Butterflies and their environment. Birds and other wildlife.

Experts and specialists in these areas and more — from Kentucky Fish & Wildlife, Kentuckiana Beekeepers Association, Sustainable Agriculture of Louisville, and other groups — will make presentations and answer questions in the vendor areas throughout the fair. (Schedules will be posted around the fair.)

And, as always, vendors with beautiful flowers and plants, fragrant herbs, hardy perennials, and creative garden art will be on hand to help you create a beautiful and sustainable garden and landscape in and around your home.

It's all part of the 20th Anniversary Gardeners' Fair and Silent Auction the second weekend in May Friday, May 8 through Sunday, May 10, 10 AM — 5 PM each day.

At this year's Gardeners' Fair, we're offering offsite parking with free shuttle transportation to Locust Grove. You can park your car at Dunn Elementary School on Rudy Lane. Shuttle vans will operate continuously throughout the fair for your convenience. Go to www.locustgrove.org for details.

Remember to check out the wonderful items included in this year's Silent Auction in the Visitors' Center Audubon Room. Among this year's offerings are prints from local artists, gift certificates to places like Masterson's and Highland Fish Market, gift baskets, and six months of cupcakes from Cake Flour. Bidding ends at 3:30 p.m. on Sunday.

Admission: \$6 for adults, \$3 for children ages 6–12, free for children under 6. Food and drink will be offered for sale. All proceeds support Locust Grove's educational and preservation programs.



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

Early Kentucky Furniture of the Bluegrass Region

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3, 1 PM **Mack Cox**, a researcher and collector of early Kentucky-made furniture, will offer a detailed look at Kentucky furniture spanning 1790-1820, including pieces from Locust Grove's collection. Cox will present a graphic-rich, fast-paced look into the various elements of Bluegrass Region furniture, as well as its influences — which include England, Pennsylvania, New York, Baltimore, Louisiana, and beyond. Join us for this fascinating look into what makes Kentucky-made furniture distinctive.



Tough Times in 1815 and 1816

WEDNESDAY, JULY 1, 1 PM

Join Locust Grove docent and historian **Lynn Renau** as she takes us back 200 years to 1815 and 1816 — challenging times for the Croghans, their relatives, and their Brownsboro Road neighbors. Cold weather, poor crops, flooding in the creeks and on the Ohio, murder and mayhem at Oxmoor, a most unlikely marriage, decommissioned Army officers, a visit from a Terrell heir intent on reclaiming her family's land, and young artist Joseph Bush who hadn't yet learned how to Photoshop portraits. Adds Lynn: "As always, ladies inclined to fainting spells are advised to bring smelling salts."



Simon Kenton, Frontiersman

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5, 1 PM

Mel Hankla, a Chataqua historical interpreter with the Kentucky Humanities Council, brings to life Simon Kenton — one of Kentucky's earliest and most remarkable explorers and frontiersmen. A crippled old Simon reminisces, telling his life's story. Respected for his knowledge of the land and competence as a woodsman by pioneers and natives alike, Kenton was a key figure in opening up and keeping the frontier safer for all of north and central Kentucky. He risked his life to save many future Kentuckians, not the least of whom was his lifelong friend, Daniel Boone.



Kentucky Shakespeare in the Parks – Macbeth

SUNDAY, MAY 17, 6 PM

Experience "murder most foul" when the grounds of Locust Grove become Macbeth's chilly Scotland. Kentucky Shakespeare presents the full version of "The Scottish Play," witches, scheming murderers, and all. Bring a picnic supper or purchase food, drinks, and snacks at Locust Grove. Seating will be on the ground — so bring blankets, chairs, or what-you-will for your comfort. In the event of wet weather or soggy ground, we'll move indoors to the Visitors' Center Audubon Room where seating will be limited to first-come, first-served. Admission is free, with donations gratefully accepted. Seating for the play and food and drink will be available at 5:00 p.m.; the play starts promptly at 6:00 p.m.



Books, Collectibles & Art Sale

SATURDAY, JUNE 27, 10 AM — 4:30 PM
FREE ADMISSION

SUNDAY, JUNE 28, 10 AM — 4:30 PM
(With Antiques Market; admission charged)

Featuring **Charles Bartman, Julius Friedman, Harvey Venier, Richard Young** & others.

This is a new event for lovers of great books, collectibles, and art. It brings together a group of local book and art dealers who will show and sell out-of-print, remaindered, and other special books. They'll have maps, prints, posters, and fine papers, as well. A portion of the sale includes books that have been donated to Locust Grove. Certified appraiser **Charles Bartman** will be on hand to appraise books, free of charge. The sale benefits the education and preservation programs of Locust Grove.



SAT., JULY 4, 10 AM — 4:30 PM ★ FREE ALL DAY!

Join the Clark and Croghan families as they celebrate Independence Day 1816. General George Rogers Clark's soldiers return to honor him and all who fought — and you can experience life 200 years ago. Hear readings of the Declaration of Independence and remember why we celebrate this day. Food and drink will be offered for sale, or bring a picnic lunch to enjoy on the grounds.



Summer Antiques Market

SUNDAY, JUNE 28, 10 AM — 4:30 PM

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

Admission is \$8, free for children 12 and under. New this year, "Early Bird" admission before 9:30 AM will be \$15 per person. All admission includes tours of the historic house museum. Food and drink will be offered for sale. Proceeds support the continued operation and preservation of Locust Grove.

Historic Picnic and Croghan Family Wedding

SATURDAY, JULY 18, NOON—TWILIGHT

The Jane Austen Festival at Locust Grove is taking a one-year break — but you still can enjoy the spirit of the times with this special event.

Bring your own picnic to enjoy on the grounds or purchase 19th-century style foods at Locust Grove. You're invited to dress in attire of any historical period from the Revolutionary War to the Gilded Age to the Roaring '20s. Or just admire those who do.

In the afternoon, we'll have a special reading of Jane Austen's early work by members of the Kentucky Shakespeare company.

In the early evening, Locust Grove's first-person interpreters will reenact the wedding of Ann Croghan to General Thomas Sidney Jesup which took place at Locust Grove in 1822. Reenactors and spectators can witness the grand wedding ceremony and join in the dancing and celebration.

Vendors of period goods will set up shop all day long, and we'll have other activities that are still being finalized at the time of publication. Be sure to check Locust Grove's website, www.locustgrove.org, for updates on activities and specific times.

Admission: \$8 for adults; \$4 for children, 6–18; free for children under 6 years of age.



It's 'Locust Grove Thursday' All Summer Long!

Every Thursday evening, from Memorial Day to Labor Day, there's something special happening at Locust Grove. From theatre to home-brewing to a hike in the woods — and so much more.

"We'll be open later each Thursday during the summer with a new special event or program every week," says Program Coordinator **Brian Cushing**. "Programs will feature food and drink, theatrical performances, workshops, tastings, special tours, and other festive experiences."

The programs typically will begin around 6:30 p.m. Many will involve new partnerships with community organizations. "Because we'll be open later, more people will be able to enjoy the beauty of our gardens and historic setting in the summer twilight," adds Executive Director **Carol Ely**.

Here's the line-up to date:

Thursday, May 28

Watch Kentucky Shakespeare's **Dahan Hooper** in **Ira Aldridge: Pioneer of the Stage**. This play takes you on Aldridge's journey as he breaks from the confines of racism in the 1800s. Aldridge, an African-American, became one of the most prominent Shakespearean actors of his time, using his stage to speak out against slavery and racial injustice.

Thursday, June 4

Join Locust Grove hearth kitchen volunteer and historic food researcher **Melissa Alexander** for a hands-on introduction to cooking a meal over a hearth fire as it was done 200 years ago. This will be a rare opportunity to immerse yourself in the experience of cooking in the past.

Thursday, June 11

Learn how to craft beer in your home from a member of one of the area's best home brewing supply stores, *My Old Kentucky Homebrew*.

Thursday, June 18

Take a walk through Locust Grove's woods with volunteer and woods guru **Jennifer McCormick** as she describes not only the plants but the rich lore of the forest in midsummer.

Thursday, June 25

Learn about the role that Locust Grove's newly restored dairy building had on the farm from local micro-dairy owner **Bob Ehrler** and Locust Grove's staffer and dairy researcher, **Hannah Zimmerman**.

Some other programs we're planning for July and August include:

Book expert **Charles Bartman** will help you get started in book collecting and appraise your special pieces.

Adam Watson, co-owner and master brewer at one of the region's best breweries, *Against the Grain*, talking about today's beer scene.

Many program details are still being determined. We'll update the website and send announcements to everyone on our email list. If you'd like to be added to our email list, please send your name and email address to marketing@locustgrove.org. We keep our list private.

Enrollment/Renewal from January 1 through March 20, 2015

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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Spirit Award Winner: Anne Murner



For some 25 years, **Anne Murner** has been a docent and volunteer at Locust Grove. Visit Locust Grove any first, third, or fifth Tuesday afternoon and Anne will be delighted to give you a tour. For Anne's longevity, enthusiasm, and reliability, she has been selected by the Volunteer Steering Committee as this quarter's Spirit Award winner.

Anne first began volunteering at Locust Grove after she and her family moved to Louisville in 1980. "I'd met **Mae Black**, who was a longtime docent at Locust Grove," says Anne. "She invited me to attend a docent training session to see if I'd like to volunteer at Locust Grove. It worked, and I started volunteering in the early 1980s."

Anne had been a history major in college and loved to study and do research. "It was a natural fit for me," Anne says. She had been trained as a teacher but spent most of her working years as a stay-at-home mother of six children.

Reflecting on her early days at Locust Grove in the 1980s brought up some delightful memories. "When I began at Locust Grove, the executive director was a woman named Frances — but she was called Snowball," Anne smiles. "**Nancy Jacobi** followed her, and then **Gwynne Potts** — who is still so active at Locust Grove.

"We docents waited for guests in the same room of the cabin where we wait now; the director also had her desk in the cabin. The gift shop was across the hall, and the visitors' center was a room next to the cabin," Anne continues.

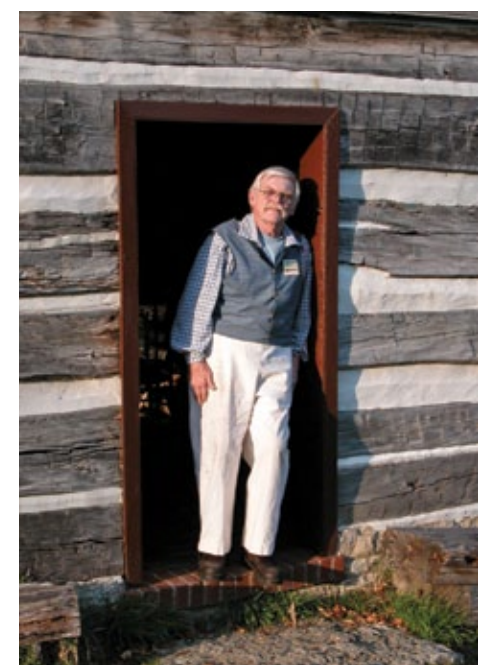
"While we waited for tours, we would roll beeswax into candles that we sold in the gift shop, or combine the ingredients for a dry veggie dip mix that we also sold in the shop — 1/4 teaspoon of this, 1/2 teaspoon of that, and so forth."

Many of the docents in those earlier days did a great deal of research on their own and took trips together to places like the Filson Historical Society or Conner Prairie in Indiana.

Anne took some time off from her volunteer duties at Locust Grove in the late 1980s, then returned as a docent in the mid-1990s.

"As rewarding as the early years were, I am thrilled to see Locust Grove grow, thrive, and become recognized as such an important place in history," Anne says. "Thank you so much for the award — and for the opportunity to be a part of Locust Grove."

Adds **Mary Beth Williams**, Curator of Collections and Education, "Anne is such a delightful and dependable docent. I know I can always rely on her — for which I am so thankful. We're fortunate to have Anne as part of our family."

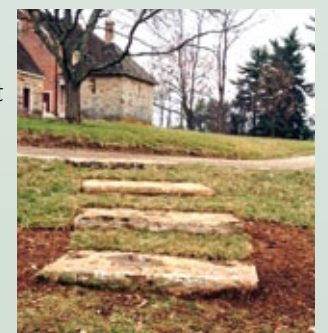


Fred Atkinson — Woodworker, Docent, Friend

Locust Grove's community felt the loss last February of **Fred Atkinson**, a long-time and beloved volunteer. Fred worked in our wood shop, was a popular craft demonstrator on school tours of the site, and a feature of many of our special events.

Fred took particular interest in the tools and equipment appropriate to carpentry in the early 19th century. He put together and catalogued a fine and extensive collection of saws, axes, planes, drawknives, and more. He taught at our summer Woodworking Camps and made spoons and birdhouses for our Museum Store. We will all miss him.

Through the many gifts that we received in Fred's memory, we were able to put into action our plan to improve access to Fred's beloved wood shop. We now have a flight of four limestone steps that lead from the gravel roadway down the slope to the wood shop door.



We think that "Fred's Steps" says it all.



Historic Locust Grove
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2015
LOCUST GROVE
Gardeners' Fair
Locust Grove in Bloom!

MAY 8, 9, & 10 10 AM TIL 5 PM

20th Annual Gardeners' Fair and Silent Auction

See new and exciting exhibits and exhibitors, watch short demonstrations, and participate in Q&A discussions at Locust Grove's 20th Annual Gardeners' Fair.

Buy gorgeous plants and flowers, delicious herbs, and hardy perennials. Pick up freshly ground organic corn. See chickens that can be raised in your back yard. Meet beekeepers and butterfly aficionados. Chat with experts in landscaping and sustainable gardening. This and more is in store at the three-day Gardeners' Fair at Locust Grove.

Inside the Visitors' Center, make bids on a wide variety of items, gift baskets, and intriguing gift certificates in the Silent Auction.

Admission: \$6 for adults, \$3 for children ages 6–12, free for children under 6. Additional parking will be available at Dunn Elementary on Rudy Lane; free shuttles will operate continuously throughout the fair. As always, food and drink will be offered for sale. And all proceeds support Locust Grove's educational and preservation programs.

HISTORIC LOCUST GROVE
GROVE GAZETTE