

HISTORIC LOCUST GROVE GROVE GAZETTE



Volunteers— The Life and Heart of Locust Grove

Volunteers aren't paid —
not because they are worthless,
but because they are priceless."

"Our enthusiastic volunteers make it possible for Locust Grove to book large school groups and offer events like the Gardeners' Fair, 18th Century Market Fair, Used Book Sales and Antiques Markets," says **Mary Beth Williams**, Locust Grove's curator of collections and education. "We couldn't do it without them."

This has been true ever since Locust Grove opened its doors to visitors in 1964. "As I understand it, two women tag-teamed to manage the house and the tourism business at Locust Grove," says **Gwynne Potts**, HLG Executive Director from 1985-1994 and a long-time volunteer. "Back then, the volunteers on the board of directors oversaw everything from operations to acquisitions."

During Gwynne's years, a small staff and a few weekend managers evolved. When the Visitors' Center opened in 1992, the need for volunteers grew dramatically. "Throughout the history of the museum, we never, ever could have functioned at the level we expect of ourselves without our volunteers — whatever their rank or title," Gwynne declares.

Locust Grove's volunteers are the life-blood of the site. With only four full-time staff plus 10 part-time staffers and weekend managers, Locust Grove is greatly dependent upon its many volunteers.

"There have been times when the site would have been closed without our volunteers," says **Carol Ely**, HLG's executive director. This was especially true in 2003 when both the executive director and the program director left for other organizations during the same time-frame.

"During those five months before I came to Locust Grove," says Carol, "**Preston Thomas** stepped in as acting director, **Sue Rogers** took on the creation of the first 18th Century Market Fair, and **Jeannie Litterst Vezeau** assumed responsibility for the *Grove Gazette* — keeping our doors open and continuing our programs and communications."

Locust Grove's volunteers are encouraged to record their volunteer hours — especially important for grant applications. In 2015, 132 volunteers reported 11,955 hours. The current value of a volunteer's time is \$23.07 per hour. Which means Locust Grove's volunteers "contributed" \$275,801.85 in service hours last year.

Volunteers regularly guide tours, greet visitors, sort countless books, and help do mailings. During special events, they spread straw on muddy paths, take admissions, and even empty trash cans. They help in the garden, demonstrate crafts to school groups, make food for events, and portray Clark and Croghan family and friends.

"We show our volunteers how much we value them during our annual awards dinner," adds Mary Beth. "Volunteers get free admission to the monthly lectures, 10 percent off in the museum store, and much more."

Interested in volunteering? Contact Mary Beth Williams at (502) 897-9845 or email: mwilliams@locustgrove.org.
(Read some volunteers' stories on page 3.)

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561 Blankenbaker Lane (502) 897-9845
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Director's Letter Carol Ely, Ph.D.

“Who lives, who dies, who tells your story...”

Did you recognize the quotation? If so, you've discovered the phenomenon of ***Hamilton, An American Musical***. I'm a little bit obsessed by it. OK, a lot obsessed. I'm not the only one.

Hamilton is the hip-hop Broadway musical based on the life of the “founding father without a father,” Alexander Hamilton. It's the brainchild of Lin-Manuel Miranda, 36, who also plays the title role.

After reading the 800-plus-page biography of Hamilton by historian Ron Chernow, Miranda immediately recognized in Hamilton's life the story of American strivers. He chose hip-hop music — with its dense lyrics, internal rhymes, and creative wordplay — as the perfect musical idiom to explore the founding of America. Author Chernow has been an advisor all along because Miranda wanted to “get it right.”

Miranda performed the earliest version of ***Hamilton*** as a poem at the White House. Over the next six years, he developed the musical into a virtual opera, sung through 46 songs. It opened at New York's Public Theatre last winter and immediately sold out. It moved to Broadway and remains sold-out for months. (I have tickets for June 14th!)

*Hamilton doesn't hesitate/
He exhibits no restraint.*

*He takes and he takes and he takes/
And he keeps winning anyway*

*He changes the game, he plays/
And he raises the stakes. . .*

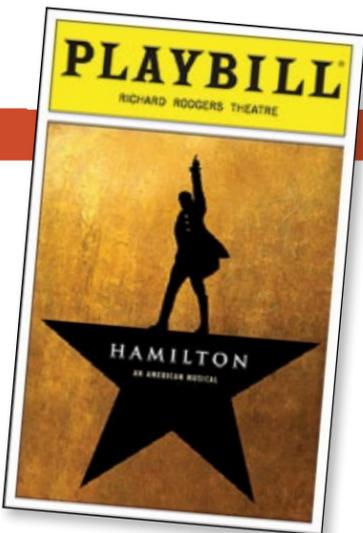
But what is especially exciting is the public enthusiasm around the musical — it has fans like ***Star Wars!*** And it's about *history!* American history! *Our Revolution!* Miranda has figured out how to make people, including young people, care and get excited about, say, the Compromise of 1790.

This success is inspiring for historic sites because it proves that history done with creativity, an awareness of the audience, and passion can reach people.

Hamilton is uniquely accessible to everyone. You can listen to the cast album, which is nearly the entire play. I wasn't expecting to love the music, but I do — hip-hop plus Broadway, with a little jazz and Britpop tossed in. You can read the full, annotated lyrics at Genius.com. On YouTube, you can see the on-street performances that the cast and friends offer free to the thousands of people who line up for only 21 lottery seats for each show.

As a historian, I love that ***Hamilton*** understands that our perceptions depend on “who tells the story.” Aaron Burr begins the narration of the play about the man he killed. The views of the women in Hamilton's life are important, too. One key scene is shown twice — first from the perspective of his future wife, Eliza Schuyler, and then from her sister Angelica's viewpoint. George Washington agonizes under the weight of leadership, and Eliza deliberately burns Hamilton's letters to save her privacy from prying eyes.

It's a moving, thoughtful, and witty tragedy — with redemption at the end. A game-changer. Now I just have to figure out how to get Miranda interested in George Rogers Clark.




Nina Ayers:
Docent, Volunteer Steering Committee Chair, Used Book Sales — 13 Years

I came to Locust Grove because I was drawn to the site — its beauty and its atmosphere. I love being able to go into the house and “feel” the history there. My favorite place in the house is the threshold, thinking about all the people who have crossed it.

I was a stay-at-home mom who wanted to volunteer somewhere and still be able to get home by the end of the school day. This was perfect. Over the years, my children went to college — but I stayed at Locust Grove. Last year, I put in nearly 500 hours. It's addictive.

I've made many friends here throughout those 13 years. The staff and Board appreciate us, which is always good to know. I enjoy the “field trips” we take to advance and enrich our abilities as docents. And it's great fun to talk to students, tell them what a child would or would not have been doing 200 years ago, and find out what they think about that.

I'm proud to chair the Volunteer Steering Committee where I act as a liaison on behalf of volunteers to the Board.

Volunteering is very gratifying. I get to be a part of the history, to learn and teach the history of this extremely significant place



Bob Boone: *Docent, Special Events, Used Book Sales, Pianist — 19 Years*

I started out at Locust Grove grilling hot dogs and brats at summer events in 1997–1998. When former Executive Director **Julie Parke** heard that I played the piano, I found myself entertaining at Christmas, Mothers' Day, and other events. It was an effort to save money since they had been paying musicians. But it was fun and I was pleased to help.

When I retired from my auditing job about five years ago, I became a docent, helping with school groups and working a regular shift for walk-in tours. I also found myself lending a hand in the Visitors' Center. When Locust Grove asked me to become a part-time weekend manager, I agreed to take that on as well as being a volunteer. I still have my regular docent shift and I volunteer for our Used Book Sales. And occasionally play some music.

I was a history major in college, even though I ended up working in the business world. I continue to read a lot of history and have come to appreciate what Locust Grove means to Louisville and the country.

I enjoy the people who work and volunteer at Locust Grove. They have such diverse and interesting backgrounds. And there's great pleasure in meeting Locust Grove's visitors who come from all over the U.S. and many foreign countries.

**Locust Grove Volunteers:
A Positive Force**

Four volunteers discuss their Locust Grove experiences

Amy Liebert:
First-Person Costumed Interpreter, Theatrical Director for Costumed Interpreters — 3 Years

About two weeks after moving to Louisville from California in 2013, I found myself at a costumed interpreters' meeting at Locust



Grove. I was intrigued by the energy and enthusiasm of the interpreters I met and was delighted when they asked me to help revamp and enlarge the site's first-person interpreter program.

First-person interpreting has been one of my loves for more than 13 years. I participated for many years in San Francisco's “Great Dickens Christmas Fair” among other activities.

I love researching and getting to know my character, Emelia Clarke, who tutored the two Croghan daughters. She and her husband, who was editor of the *Western Courier* newspaper, lived for a couple of years at Locust Grove with their children.

Guests are surprised to learn that our interpreters are volunteers. I can say with absolute certainty that what Locust Grove has is very special, both in terms of quality and the dedication each member brings to the program. It is a true delight to make magic happen with these bright, knowledgeable people in this incredibly beautiful setting.

Irene Rawlings: *Docent, Costumed Demonstrator, Gardeners' Fair Committee, Used Book Sales — 8 Years*

With retirement from the Army and the healthcare industry in 2002 and the encouragement of a friend, I began to volunteer for weekend events here.

I lived on a farm while growing up in what was then a rural area outside of Washington, D.C. While in 4-H, I learned the importance of agricultural sustainability — meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs,

With that purpose in mind, I trained to become a “spinner” for school groups — relating the seed to the plant to the fiber (flax) and the sheep to the wool in order to get yarn to make cloth and clothing. My experiences with school groups make sustainability real, especially when I'm in costume, logs burning for warmth, and no electricity.

When I show what the early Kentuckians did to make their own clothing, it helps make Locust Grove and its people real — not in some “museum.” I love that.

Some of the best things about volunteering at Locust Grove include the staff and other volunteers, the opportunities to learn and share, and being in this beautiful place.

I know that Locust Grove has given much to me. I'm gratified to help keep the magic alive.





The Christmastide cast creates 21st century chaos for Program Director **Brian Cushing** (far left) during the annual photo session.

Christmastide Entertains Across Two Centuries

Christmastide is a family party when the Croghans, their family, neighbors, and friends come to the Croghans' home to celebrate the season. Highly trained first-person historical interpreters — all volunteers — “become” the family members and friends attending the party in 1816, to which 21st century visitors are welcomed.

More than 400 guests visited this year's celebration in early December. They chatted with family members in the house, enjoyed carols sung by cast members **Hannah Stoppel** (Elizabeth Taylor) and **Sara Ritchie** (Mary Ann Cosby), and applauded violin music played by **Tammy Burke** (Mrs. Richard Taylor).

They chatted in the hearth kitchen with the cook (**Melissa Alexander**), then returned to the 21st century in the Visitors' Center to shop at the Christmas book sale and in the museum store and to enjoy refreshments while children created 19th century-style holiday crafts.

On Friday evening, Yeoman Warder **Robert Brown** of the Tower of London regaled guests with ghost stories from the Tower before touring the house and charming some of the ladies of the cast.

For many, the 19th century experience is quite real. In the parlor, **Mia Seitz** as Lucy Croghan asked guests to tell her if her sons were playing cards, of which she greatly disapproves. She was delighted when a young 21st century guest, after finding two of her sons playing cards on the first floor, raced back to the Great Parlor to report the card-playing miscreants.

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

The Indiana Wilderness Trail

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9 — 1 PM
(Please note change to the second Wednesday, this month only.)

Kentucky's well-documented “Wilderness Road” was actually a series of buffalo traces and other ancient trails that brought settlers west across the Appalachians into Kentucky territory. Pioneers bound for land north of the Ohio River often used an extension of this “road” to take them on into Indiana territory. Join **David Ruckman**, a licensed land surveyor and member of Indiana's Bicentennial Commission, to learn more about this important “road.” Mr. Ruckman is working with the U.S. Forest Service to find and document the Indiana Wilderness Trail.

The Kentucky Historical Society Presents: Kentucky Treasures



WEDNESDAY, APRIL 6 — 1 PM

Learn about some of the fascinating historical artifacts that are right here in Kentucky. Since 1836, the Kentucky Historical Society has collected the books, documents, images, oral histories, and artifacts that tell the Commonwealth's story. Some of the hundreds of thousands of these artifacts include collections relating to Churchill Weavers, the bourbon industry, artist Paul Sawyier, the Civil War, and Abraham Lincoln's very own pocket watch.



Spring Used Book Sale

MEMBERS' ONLY PREVIEW SALE:
THURSDAY, MARCH 3, 5 PM — 7:30 PM
(Memberships may be purchased at the door.)

OPEN TO PUBLIC:
FRIDAY, MARCH 4, 10AM — 7 PM
SATURDAY & SUNDAY, MARCH 5 & 6, 10 AM — 4:30 PM

Some 20,000-plus books are waiting for you — all sorted into categories and displayed for easy shopping. They're all gently used, donated by readers all over the region. Most books are \$1 and \$2, with special ones \$3 and up — all great bargains. Proceeds from our Used Book Sales support all of Locust Grove's programs. Thank you!



Kentucky Shakespeare in the Parks: Romeo & Juliet

SUNDAY, APRIL 17, 6 PM

You know the story — two kids fall in love but their families are feuding. They figure a way to be together, but [spoiler alert] it all goes horribly wrong. Kentucky Shakespeare presents the full version of “Romeo & Juliet” at Locust Grove. 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. In the event of wet weather or soggy ground, we'll move to the Visitors' Center where seating will be on a first-come, first-served basis.

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.

18th Century Thunder — A Revolutionary War Encampment

SATURDAY, APRIL 23 AND SUNDAY, APRIL 24, 10 AM — 4:30 PM

It's “Thunder Weekend” 18th-century style at Locust Grove — commemorating the arrival of Revolutionary War troops in 1778 commanded by Louisville's founder and Locust Grove resident George Rogers Clark.

At 18th Century Thunder, you can talk to the soldier-reenactors and their families, learn about battle tactics, and participate in a wreath-laying ceremony honoring General Clark, complete with a 21-gun salute.

You can chat with the women in the hearth kitchen making food for some of the troops, and hear from the doctor about how he'd pull teeth, remove musket balls from victims, and see all the medicines and tools in his kit. Children are encouraged to sign up as “soldiers” when the troops call for recruits. Snacks and soft drinks will be available.

SPECIAL PRICING! Admission: \$6 for adults; children 12 and under are free.



Emilie Strong Smith Chamber Music Concerts



This series offers concertgoers a unique opportunity. Patrons delight in music that the Clarks and Croghans would have heard in the room where they would have enjoyed it — the second-floor Great Parlor of the historic house. Refreshments are at 5:00 p.m.; the concert in the Great Parlor begins at 5:30 p.m. Individual concert tickets are \$20. Please call Locust Grove at (502) 897-9845 for reservations and further information.

Music in Kentucky

SUNDAY, APRIL 10, 5:30 PM

The Locust Grove Chamber Musicians present an evening of early Kentucky and Appalachian music, including the music of Heinrich, Mozart, and traditional Scots-Irish composers.

Spirit Award Winner: Sandy Dempsey



More than 21 years ago, **Sandy Dempsey** began volunteering at Locust Grove, enthusiastically taking visitors through the house while describing the lives of the people who lived there and the times in which they lived. Over the years, she's worked at most special events, served on the Volunteer Steering Committee twice, and been a docent for Friday afternoon tours.

“Sandy is one of those volunteers who is so dependable and reliable — and always ready to pitch in whenever we need extra docents or other assistance,” says **Mary Beth Williams**, curator of collections and education. “Those are two of the main reasons that the Volunteer Steering Committee selected her as this quarter's Spirit Award Winner.”

Sandy thinks that during those first few years, she volunteered at every weekend event. “I was there all the time,” laughs Sandy. “Grilling hot dogs and brats on that old charcoal grill was where you'd often find me.”

Nowadays, she's found everywhere. “I'm here every Friday, of course,” she says. “And then when Mary Beth needs someone to fill in on other weekdays or weekends, for school groups and other special tours, I usually say ‘yes.’ I try to help out whenever I can.”

That helping nature comes naturally to Sandy. She was a registered nurse, spending her first four years as a lieutenant in the Navy Nurse Corps. When she retired in the early 1990s, she found her way to Locust Grove.

“That first visit piqued my interest in the history of this area,” Sandy adds. “I signed up to train as a docent. Which suited me perfectly. As people who know me realize, I enjoy talking.”

Mary Beth and **Martha Watson**, Sandy's Friday afternoon docent partner, would whole-heartedly agree with that assessment.

“Friday afternoons are a fun time, largely because of the conversations the three of us have,” says Mary Beth. “I give Sandy a hard time, but she's a good sport with my good-natured ribbing. Sandy's a trip!”

Sandy adds that she loves belonging to the Locust Grove family. “Besides having lively conversations and entertaining debates, I also enjoy traveling with everyone on our field trips to historic places,” she adds. “In fact, I think I've missed only two or three in the last 21 years!”

Adds Mary Beth, “Sandy has been a loyal, enthusiastic volunteer at Locust Grove for years — and we are so fortunate to have such a dedicated and delightful volunteer and friend.”

Locust Grove's Own Cocktail:

Colonel Croghan's Cup

In 2013, **Susan Reigler** (then HLG Board President), along with local bartender **Joy Perrine**, developed three cocktails for our annual meeting, inspired by 19th century drinks — often called “cups.”

The Locust Grove members attending the meeting tasted all three and voted on their favorite — a combination of whiskey, champagne, cherries, and pineapple. In the early days of Kentucky, whiskey was everywhere, the cherries were grown locally, and nutmeg was a popular flavoring. While pineapples were certainly not local, they were enjoyed as an exotic treat.

That same year was the bicentennial of the Battle of Fort Stephenson (now Fremont, Ohio) on August 2, 1813. It was an unexpected victory for the United States against Britain during the War of 1812 and brought nationwide fame to Lucy and William's second son, Col. George Croghan, who was instrumental in that success.

Locust Grove brought back the cocktail — now called Colonel Croghan's Cup — for the Berry Center/Locust Grove event last September. We thought all our readers would enjoy having the recipe. Cheers!



Photograph by Taylor Ringenberg for Edible Louisville & The Bluegrass, August/September 2015

Enrollment/Renewal from October 1 through December 31, 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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In Memoriam

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

☞ Hilary Hedges ☞

☞ DeWitt Henney ☞

Donations received from October 1 through December 31, 2015

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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We would like to thank the following for their Annual Fund donations. We regret their accidental omission from our 2015 Annual Report:

Mr. & Mrs. William Davis
Mr. & Mrs. James Statler

Bourbon Auction Nets \$20K+ for Locust Grove

An auction this past November of five Pappy Van Winkle bourbon bottles, donated and signed by **Julian Van Winkle**, blazed past estimates to raise \$20,200 for Historic Locust Grove.

Wally's Auctions in New York, which conducted the online auction, waived the buyer's premium for this special auction so that 100 percent of the proceeds would benefit Locust Grove's Farm Distillery project.

"We were astonished by the auction totals, and so grateful for the donation of these sought-after bottles of Old Rip Van Winkle Distillery bourbons," says Locust Grove Executive Director **Carol Ely**. "Kentucky's bourbon families have made Locust Grove's Farm Distillery project possible."

The Farm Distillery project will recreate a distillery true to the ones that would have been found on working farms in the early 19th century.

"The success of the charitable auction surpassed our hopes and expectations for this sale," says a Van Winkle family spokesperson. "The recreation of a farm distillery is the beginning of a story never told in Kentucky — or, for that matter, in America. On behalf of Louisville's historic family distillers who are behind this project, we thank the team at Wally's for their amazing support."

Locust Grove is excited to have the opportunity to show this part of the region's earliest heritage.

"We're moving now from the 'What if' phase to the 'Go for it!' phase, thanks to this generous support," adds Carol. "We plan to have the demonstration distillery open by the fall of 2016."



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



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by the American Alliance
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SATURDAY, APRIL 23 & SUNDAY, APRIL 24, 10 AM — 4:30 PM

[WINTER 2016]

The printing of Grove Gazette is contributed by Publishers Printing, Shepherdsville, Ky. Thank you!

GREAT BARGAINS AWAIT YOU AT LOCUST GROVE'S MARCH USED BOOK SALE!

SPECIAL MEMBERS' PREVIEW SALE:
THURSDAY, MARCH 3, 5 PM — 7:30 PM
(Memberships may be purchased at the door.)

OPEN TO PUBLIC:
FRIDAY, MARCH 4, 10AM — 7 PM
SATURDAY & SUNDAY, MARCH 5 & 6,
10 AM — 4:30 PM

"You can't buy happiness, but you can buy books," someone once said. Have we got happiness for you — lots of happiness — at Locust Grove's semi-annual Used Book Sale.

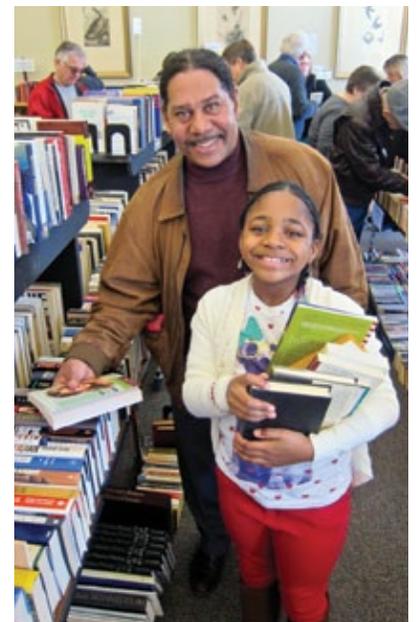
We expect to have some 22,000 books, all neatly sorted into about 25 categories. History, literature, fiction, mystery/suspense, religion, travel, art, antiques, science/animals, children, foreign language, and so much more. Plus DVDs, CDs, and even vinyl records.

Most are priced at \$1 for paperbacks, \$2 for hardbacks. On the other side of the room, you'll find a number of books bargain-priced at \$3 to \$8. We'll also have a selection of illustrated, rare, collectible, autographed, and sets of books at various prices — all of which are still amazing bargains.

We're open on Friday until 7:00 p.m. so you can shop after school or work. Our volunteers and staffers constantly restock the tables until we've emptied the back room of sorted books. On Sunday, we always have special offers — much to the delight of many shoppers who fill bags with their bargains.

All of the books in our Used Book Sales have been donated! We would not have a Used Book Sale without your giving us books you no longer want or cannot fit on your bookshelves. You may bring your book donations to Locust Grove whenever the Visitors' Center is open. (Hours are on our website.) We'll give you a tax receipt and our heartfelt thanks!

Proceeds from our Used Book Sales support all of Locust Grove's programs. Thank you!



HISTORIC LOCUST GROVE
GROVE GAZETTE