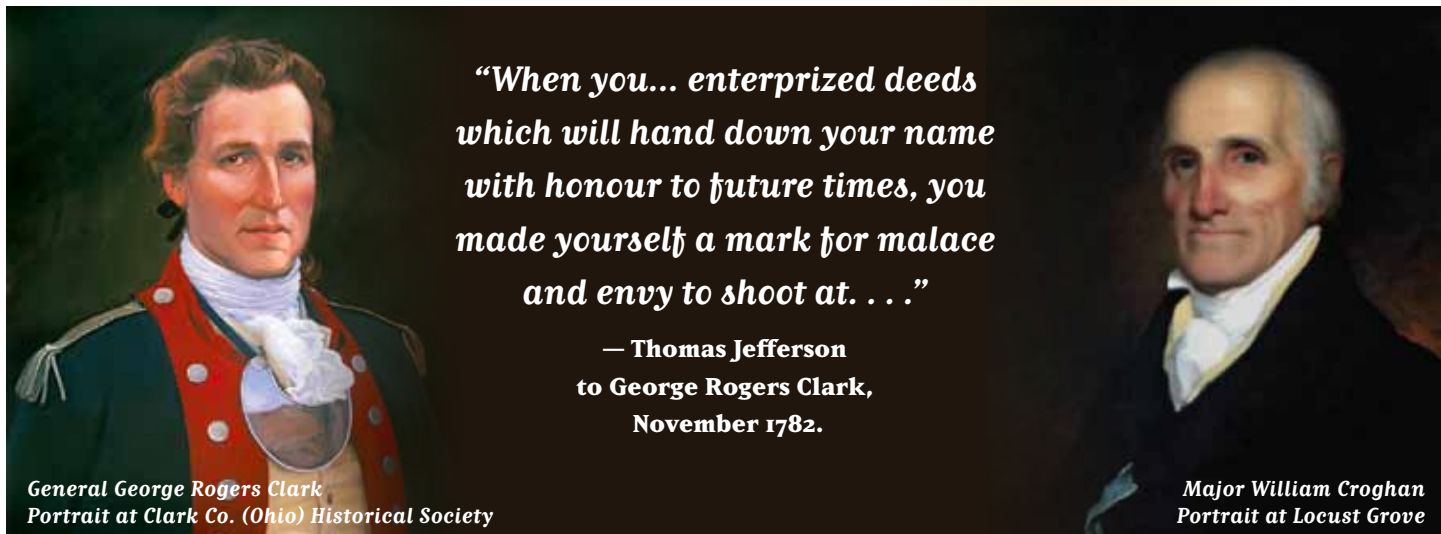




## BROTHERS IN REVOLUTION



General George Rogers Clark  
Portrait at Clark Co. (Ohio) Historical Society

Major William Croghan  
Portrait at Locust Grove

If you wanted to pick two people to personify the American Revolution in the East and the American Revolution in the West, you could hardly select more wisely than by choosing William Croghan and George Rogers Clark, whose fortunes would be intertwined after the fighting stopped.

Croghan is the very model of the Continental Army soldier, battling alongside George Washington from ignominious defeat in Manhattan to glorious victory at Yorktown — along the way intersecting with most of the major figures of the period.

And Clark personifies the War in the West. In fact, his efforts and his organization *was* the War in the West — waged on behalf of Virginia and under the direction of Virginia’s political leaders.

**Gwynne Potts’** new book, *George Rogers Clark and William Croghan*, is a double biography of these two men whose lives were entwined like a helix of DNA, mirroring and contrasting with each other. Clark, “by nature a scientist and social historian,” moved boldly through the western territory, taking impossible risks and succeeding wildly until he failed. Croghan, “a rationalist,” accumulated an estate and raised a family, prudent and responsible.

Through Potts’ new research and thoughtful interpretation, we see Clark in full. In particular, this book examines the complexity of his intricate negotiations with the native Americans he encountered as valued allies, mortal enemies, and trading partners in peace.

We learn new details about Croghan — from his Dublin roots to his military service for both the King’s forces and the Continental army, surveying and land speculation, and his later years surrounded by family at Locust Grove.

Both men died at Locust Grove — Clark in 1818, Croghan just four years later. While Croghan’s reputation was limited to those who knew him personally, Clark’s fame lived on in the history books — at least for a time. With bridges, towns, and schools named for him, Clark is locally known in Kentucky and Indiana. But his role in the Revolution in the West has not received the attention it deserves in our national narrative.

This book should help correct that oversight and restore his role as a truly central figure in the history of the trans-Appalachian region from Virginia and Pennsylvania to the new states of the “Old Northwest.”

Potts tells us: “By the standards of their time, each was a hero, but neither was an ideal man. Clark and Croghan employed men, women, and children as slave labor. . . . Neither moved far beyond the commonly held opinions of most westerners regarding Native American peoples. . . .”

As we reassess our heroes and the meaning of the American legacy of independence, this book helps to identify the influences, successes, failures, and scope of the lives of two close and contradictory brothers in Revolution.

Grove Gazette is published quarterly by Historic Locust Grove, Inc. for members, volunteers and supporters of Historic Locust Grove. ©2020

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Louisville, KY 40207 (502) 896-2433  
[www.locustgrove.org](http://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.

### A New Space, A New Discussion: The Enslaved at Locust Grove



The most pressing issues of our time echo through the stories that Locust Grove has been exploring about the lives of the dozens of men, women, and children who lived on the site as slaves during the half-century of the Croghans' ownership. Now we have new opportunities to focus on their experiences.

We'll be transforming our current wood shop into a dwelling for an enslaved family. As we clear the building for its new use, our Acquisitions and Collections

Committee members have begun to assess the fine collection of woodworking tools used to interpret carpentry — to reuse appropriately. And, the room between the hearth kitchen and the smokehouse soon will become a laundry/wash house.

The conversion of the wood shop builds on last fall's visit from **Joe McGill's** Slave Dwelling Project, on research by docent **Heather Hiner** along with staff, interns, and volunteers.

Intern **Rebecca Wishnevski**, from the University of Louisville, researched the domestic lives of the enslaved at Locust Grove, focusing on evidence from our archaeological collections. She drafted an interpretive plan that we'll develop further to envision the re-created slave residence.

Intern **Caroline Weikel** from Centre College researched the process of doing laundry and the tools and equipment for caring for clothes and household textiles. Her plan will help us assemble a space to demonstrate this activity in the room next to the smokehouse, which we believe originally was the wash house.

All this is just part of new interpretive dimensions we are adding to the rich and complex story of the people who lived and worked at Locust Grove.

### To Be Enslaved at Locust Grove: A Weekly Tour Experience



**Historic Interpreter Tiera Thomas**

Beginning Saturday, April 11, at 11:00 a.m. and continuing for most Saturdays thereafter, we will offer a special tour focusing on, and told from the point of view of, the enslaved residents of Locust Grove.

The tour will be led by specially trained docents and by first person interpreters. You'll learn more about Kitt, Clark's "body servant;" Nanny, the cook; Sylvia, who lived with grief; Alfred's bold claim to freedom; and all that we know and continue to learn about the experiences, private lives, and daily work of those enslaved here.

Reservations will be taken online; walk-ins will be accommodated when possible. Each tour is limited to 15 participants. It's not recommended for children under 7.

Spring and summer tours will be offered on April 11, April 25, May 16, May 23, May 30, June 6, June 13, June 20, July 11, July 25, Aug. 1. See the reservations page to see open dates and to book your tour. Offered at our regular tour prices. To reserve a tour, go to <http://bit.ly/hlgtours>.



## SPRIT AWARD WINNERS: Cheryl and Ron Adkisson

Historic interpreters **Cheryl and Ron Adkisson** are perfect representatives of Lucy and William Croghan. Their extensive research into the lives of Locust Grove’s owners provides a rich background for their interpretation — and helps visitors and the other interpreters embody the spirit of Locust Grove in 1816. Because of their expertise, the Volunteer Steering Committee has selected them to be this quarter’s Spirit Award winners.

Both are now retired from South Oldham Middle School. “But I don’t think we know what ‘retired’ means,” laughs Cheryl. She continues to work with Oldham County’s gifted and talented program as well as part-time at Williams Sonoma. And she works with a student travel program that gives students opportunities for history-focused travel. Cheryl also has spent the last 11 summers at Colonial Williamsburg’s Teacher Institute, writing and editing curriculum and working with a professional development team.

In 2014, Ron was named a Master Teacher Fellow by the Gilder Lehrman Institute, which promotes the study of and interest in American history. He leads workshops and seminars that focus on teaching literacy through history. In 2012, Ron was honored as the Gilder Lehrman “Kentucky Teacher of the Year” for his creative living history programs that helped his students realize that history is the story of people’s lives, not just “a bunch of facts.”

It’s the desire of both Ron and Cheryl to find further opportunities to engage in living history that led them to

Locust Grove. “We found a group of people who are total history buffs,” declares Ron. “We found a story that needed to be told. We found Locust Grove. We are home!”

The Adkissons have portrayed several members of the Clark and Croghan families over the past eight years — as well as volunteering at various events, helping to plan programs, and working in the hearth kitchen and doing some woodworking.

“Years ago, I did a hearth dinner for the historical interpreters, and it was one of the best evenings I have had at Locust Grove,” says Cheryl.

Adds Ron: “I was delighted to help teach visitors about surveying during one of the summer Cultural Pass Tuesdays. I love working with wood and hope to be able to do that at Locust Grove, as well.”

“Ron and Cheryl bring a passion for every aspect of history they can get their hands on,” says Program Director **Brian Cushing**. “Their well-rounded approach brings an authenticity to what they do here. And their combined years of teaching allow them to comfortably and approachably communicate with our guests in a way that few others can.”



## Seeking Silent Auction Items!

One of the popular events during Locust Grove’s annual fundraising Gardeners’ Fair is the Silent Auction. But we need your help! The auction committee is looking for gift certificates of all kinds — such as for special services (i.e., spas, salons, photography); business tours (bourbon distilleries, potteries); tours of homes or gardens; classes in cooking, bourbon, wine, beer-making; for theaters, car detailing, etc.

Other popular items include jewelry, antiques, quilts, and handmade special items; themed gift baskets; autographed items; condo rentals, and vacation experiences. All donors receive a receipt for a tax deduction and our grateful thanks.

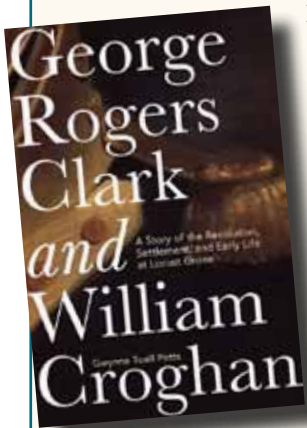
If you have leads for the auction committee members, we’d love to know. Deadline for all donations is **Monday, April 20, 2020**. For more information, to suggest possible donors, or to donate goods or services, please call the Visitors’ Center at (502) 897-9845.

FIRST WEDNESDAY LECTURE SERIES

Hear a variety of interesting speakers on unusual topics that relate to the lives of the Croghans, Clarks, and the region. Held on the first Wednesday of each month, except January and May. Doors open at 12:50 p.m. for desserts and beverages; lectures begin at 1:15 p.m.

*George Rogers Clark and William Croghan*  
**Wednesday, March 11 – 1:15 PM**

**NOTE:** Due to the Used Book Sale, this lecture has moved to the **second** Wednesday in March!



Historian **Gwynne Potts**, author of **George Rogers Clark and William Croghan** (see cover story), talks about her new research on the life of Major William Croghan, whose Irish roots and American story contrast with, and intertwine with, Clark's better-known life. Croghan's story has been more obscure than his famous brother-in-law's; but Potts' book reveals new insights that will influence our interpretation of the Croghans of Locust Grove from now on. (For the other half of the story, come to Gwynne's talk on Thursday, April 16. See listing, page 5).

**'A Notion About Freedom'**  
*York of the Lewis and Clark Expedition*  
**Wednesday, April 1 – 1:15 PM**



William Clark's slave, York, was an important, contributing member of America's greatest exploring venture — the 1803-1806 Lewis and Clark Expedition. Yet, at its conclusion, York remained a slave for at least nine years before being granted his freedom.

Join **Jim Holmberg**, curator of special collections at The Filson

Historical Society, as he reveals a more complete biography of York than we have for almost any other African American of the early 19th century.

Encampment and Spring on the Farm

Happening this Spring on Saturday and Sunday, April 18 and 19. See back page for more details.



SPRING USED BOOK SALE

**Members-Only Preview:**  
**Thursday, March 5, 5 PM – 7:30 PM**

**Open to the Public:**  
**Friday, March 6, 10 AM – 7 PM**  
**Saturday & Sunday, March 7 & 8, 10 AM – 4:30 PM**

Shop for more than 20,000 used, antiquarian, and new books in all categories — history, biography, mysteries, reference, science fiction, travel, cookbooks, children's, Kentucky, romance, crafts, gardening, and much, much, more! Prices begin at \$1 for paperbacks, and \$2 for most hardcover books, with a large selection of illustrated books, rare books, and sets, priced individually. All books are sorted by category and are in good condition. Because of the volume of donations, books may be added to the display during the sale. On Friday, we're open until 7:00 p.m. with light refreshments. Come after work!



A St. Patrick's Day Tea and Talk

IRELAND'S NEWGRANGE

**Tuesday, March 17 – 3 PM**

Celebrate William Croghan's Irish heritage on St. Patrick's Day with a visit to one of Ireland's greatest archaeological treasures and a UNESCO World Heritage Site — The Royal Tomb at Newgrange.

**Dr. John Hale**, director of Liberal Studies at University of Louisville, will talk about its place in Ireland's history and folklore. Newgrange, built around 3200 BC, is older than Stonehenge and the Egyptian pyramids. A lovely Irish tea and delicious treats are included. Limit: 90 participants. Reservations required. Admission: \$15; \$10 for members. Visit <http://bit.ly/hlgtickets> for tickets.



**BEGINNINGS BABYWEARING TOUR**

**Saturday, March 21, 11 AM – 12 PM Noon**

Begin your museum exploration as a family where Louisville begins! Get out of the house and come to our babywearing tour to explore



the home of William and Lucy Croghan and their eight children with other new parents. We won't mind if your baby cries, coos, or takes a snooze. We're all here to enjoy our historic house at our own pace.

Please bring only children who can safely be worn on the front or the back for the safety of our collection.

No older siblings please. Reservations required. Admission: \$9 per caregiver; babies free, as always. Purchase tickets here: <http://bit.ly/hlgbabies>. For more information, please email Hannah at [marketing@locustgrove.org](mailto:marketing@locustgrove.org).

**SMITHSONIAN MAGAZINE MUSEUM DAY**

**Saturday, April 4, 10 AM – 4:30 PM**

Locust Grove is pleased to participate in Museum Day, an annual celebration of boundless curiosity hosted by **Smithsonian** magazine.



Participating museums and cultural institutions across the country provide free entry to anyone presenting a Museum Day ticket that day. Get your Museum Day ticket here: <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/museumday/search/?q>. The ticket will provide free admission for two people to Locust Grove on Saturday, April 4. Where will your curiosity lead you this Museum Day?

**LOOKING FOR GEORGE ROGERS CLARK**

**Thursday, April 16, 6:30 PM**

Join **Gwynne Potts**, author of *George Rogers Clark and William Croghan* (see cover story), for an informal discussion about the life and reputation of General Clark in the light of her new research and revised interpretation. Clark was once a national hero whose exploits were lauded in every history textbook but who is now only vaguely remembered by most of the public. Who was he in his time, and how do we understand his legacy now?

Light refreshments and a cash bar with 18th century-style drinks that would have been familiar to the General and his peers. Reservations required. Admission; \$12, \$10 for Locust Grove members. Visit <http://bit.ly/hlgtickets> for tickets.

**EMILIE STRONG SMITH CHAMBER MUSIC SERIES**

*This is the last concert of the 36th season of the Emilie Strong Smith Chamber Music Series. This series offers the opportunity to hear music that the Clarks and Croghans would have heard where they would have heard it — in the second-floor Great Parlor of the historic house. Refreshments are at 5:00 p.m.; the concert begins at 5:30 p.m. \$20.*

*'The Woods so Wild'*

**Sunday, March 22, 2020, 5:30 PM**

**The Woods so Wild** is a duo based in Minneapolis featuring Locust Grove favorite **Kenneth Kusiak** on the virginal and **Bill Bauer** on the Renaissance violin. They focus on music from Shakespeare's time, taking their name from a piece of virginal music from the Tudor era called "Will Yow Walke the Woods soe Wylde." The piece is popularly believed to have been a favorite of Henry VIII.

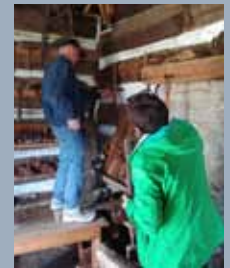


**Locust Grove's Very Busy January**

This January, during our annual closure, staff and volunteers cleaned the house from top to bottom . . . sorted seeds for planting in the spring . . . planned the 2020



program and events calendar . . . and took inventory of the tools and collection items in the wood shop in preparation for turning that space into our slave dwelling.



**Volunteer Alan Thompson and Education Coordinator Diane Statler inventory the woodshop tools**

**Accessibility Important to Locust Grove**

With help from the Louisville Cultural Accessibility Association, Locust Grove is striving to be more welcoming and accommodating to every guest.

We've added assisted listening devices to all of our lecture programming, and staff and volunteers have worked with staff members from The American Printing House for the Blind, Matingly Edge, and Families for Effective Autism Treatment to learn more about meeting the needs of all our guests.

For more information about accommodations, group tours, and our accessibility efforts, please email Hannah at [marketing@locustgrove.org](mailto:marketing@locustgrove.org).

## VOLUNTEER CRAFTSMAN-IN-RESIDENCE

When field-trip students meet volunteer leatherworker **Dave Phipps** at Locust Grove, mayhem may ensue. And that's just what Dave wants.

He hands a student a leather fire bucket to start a "bucket brigade." The students pass leather buckets down the row. Then Dave tells the student at the end to toss the buckets back to the first student.

"Even when leather buckets are filled with water, they're easier to handle than a wooden bucket," Dave explains. "And much more efficient. Leather buckets were like 18th century Nerf. They bounce right off the floor if they're dropped — and then they're ready to go again."

He wants to show visitors that leather fire buckets were an essential household item 200 years ago when there wasn't a fire department to respond to a 911 call.

A veteran American Revolution reenactor who retired from the U. S. Army, Dave has been doing reenacting for several years. "Once I saw that history was just a big soap opera and not dry facts, reenacting became a grand adventure in time travel," Dave smiles.



*"...Leather buckets were like 18th century Nerf. They bounce right off the floor..."*

— **Dave Phipps, Leatherworker**

Dave's love of history and crafts has found him a home at Locust Grove — where he has been the Tuesday volunteer craftsman-in-residence for several years.

A typical Tuesday finds Dave in the residence at Locust Grove — hanging his sign, setting up his work bench, and opening the door to visitors. Dave's favorite part is meeting people and seeing their reactions to life in the 18th and 19th centuries.

"I hope people learn that 18th and 19th century society required cooperation in things like fire-fighting," declares Dave, "and that leather was the go-to product, much like plastic and nylon are today."

Dave's appearances at Locust Grove make him a popular staple of our volunteer artisan corps.

"The more our society moves away from non-mechanized skills, the more people seem to be fascinated by them," says Program Director **Brian Cushing**. "That makes Dave a favorite for our students and other visitors. The sort of work Dave does here gets people excited about learning about the past — which is crucial for keeping a place like Locust Grove going!"

### Welcome, Geoffrey McMahon!



Locust Grove's new Buildings and Groundskeeper is a native of Springfield, Ky., and a graduate of Western Kentucky University with a degree in history.

**Geoffrey McMahon** credits his childhood proximity to the Lincoln

Homestead State Park and his work at WKU's Kentucky Museum as sparking his interest in history. Geoffrey also is passionate about the outdoors, especially canoeing down the Green River in Mammoth Cave National Park — another Croghan connection!

"I'm most excited to experience the seasonal changes here at Locust Grove," says Geoffrey. "It's been a joy to see all the avian visitors to the site, specifically the blue jays and hawks." He's also looking forward to learning more about the objects in the collection and welcoming school groups with freshly lit fires.

### Monthly Distillery Demos Now Being Offered

Locust Grove visitors will get to see whiskey-mashing demos in the Farm Distillery beginning Saturday, March 7. Other demos in 2020 will be on April 18, May 30, Sept. 5, Oct. 24, and Nov. 14. Admission is \$9.

"Some months, we'll be a part of a special event," says **Brian Cushing**, program director. "In other months, Distillery Day will be devoted expressly to the whiskey-mashing process."

What visitors will see, smell, hear, and even taste (when the mash is cool enough to touch) is what they would have experienced in a 19th-century distillery. "We use only the correct 19th-century ingredients, temperatures, tools, and techniques," says Brian. But since Locust Grove doesn't have a distilling license, the mash goes to Kentucky Artisan Distillery in Crestwood for further processing.

"Our special distillery demos will further Locust Grove's broader story as a farm and all who made that farm work," adds Brian. For more information: <http://bit.ly/hlgdistillery>.



**Brian Cushing**

Many thanks to the hundreds of people who support Historic Locust Grove through memberships and 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 October 17, 2019, through January 15, 2020.**

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### IN MEMORIAM

Mary Alice McAfee  
 Samuel Miller  
 John Moses  
 Frances Lee  
 Ann Sanderlin

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



Historic Locust Grove  
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Louisville, KY 40207  
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www.locustgrove.org



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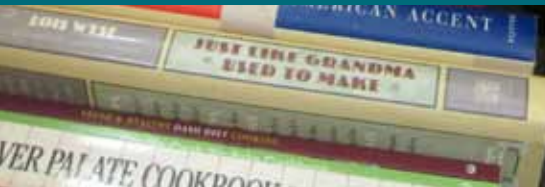


### SPRING USED BOOK SALE

Members' Preview: March 5, 5–7:30 PM

Public Sales: March 6, 10 AM–7 PM

March 7 & 8, 10 AM–4:30 PM



Winter 2020

## ENCAMPMENT AND SPRING ON THE FARM

Saturday and Sunday, April 18 and 19, 10 AM–4:30 PM

Feel the excitement of the early days of the American Revolution! Meet George Rogers Clark's own regiment, the Illinois Regiment of Virginia. Visit their **Encampment** to meet soldiers and camp followers and find out about preparations for a military campaign. Participate in recruitment for new, pint-sized troops.

Experience **Spring on the Farm** as you learn 18th-century recipes in the hearth kitchen. Visit the blacksmith, woodworker, and other tradespeople to discover more about daily life during the Revolution.

Hear about the beginning of the Revolution leading up to "the 18th of April in '75" from Locust Grove Executive Director **Carol Ely** as she describes the events surrounding Paul Revere's ride and the battles of Lexington and Concord. Learn what it takes to become a reenactor during a panel discussion.

Admission: \$8; \$4 for children 6-12; free for children under 6. Historic house tours included; snacks will be available for sale.



HISTORIC LOCUST GROVE  
**GROVE GAZETTE**

[www.locustgrove.org](http://www.locustgrove.org)