

# GROVE GAZETTE

Historic Locust Grove

561 Blankenbaker Lane

Louisville, KY 40207

(502) 897-9845

www.locustgrove.org



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## Kelly Stevenson Spirit Award Winner



Her son, Tom, was just a baby and she was teaching fulltime. But **Kelly Stevenson** still found a way to begin volunteering at Locust Grove in 2001. As a teacher, she had summers off, so she offered to help with Pioneer Camp — planning activities and being a leader. Pioneer Camp began Kelly's ever-growing involvement in Locust Grove which has led to her selection as "Spirit Award Winner."

When Kelly quit teaching to homeschool her son a few years later, she found more time for other activities at Locust Grove. She trained to be a docent so she could lead school tours. Her long-time love of spinning and knitting led to her volunteering

as a demonstrator for "Craft Sampler" tours and events.

Several years later, her son said he'd like to be a costumed interpreter. "I'd always wanted to do that, too, so we joined together. We've now done four Candlelight Christmas events — and my husband Keith has taken on the role of Dr. John Croghan, Lucy and William's oldest son."

Kelly is now a member of the Volunteer Steering Committee and sponsor of the Kentucky Junior Historical Society chapter that meets at Locust Grove.

"Kelly's open and pleasant demeanor charms all of our visitors," says HLG Executive Director **Carol Ely**. "Her well-researched enthusiasm for history and her hands-on skills



as a costumed interpreter and craft demonstrator enhance our presentation of daily life in early Kentucky."

Although her focus as a teacher was science, she also taught Spanish — which led to another example of Kelly's generosity. When she heard that the Friendship Force of Louisville was bringing 20 Costa Rican visitors to Locust Grove, Kelly quickly volunteered to give the tour in Spanish. It was a hit. Congratulations, Kelly!

## Yearly Events Mark Your Calendars!

**First Wednesday Lecture Series**  
1:00 p.m. (except in January and May). In 2012, the July lecture will be on July 11.

**Two Big Used Book Sales!**  
Many book bargains abound during these 2012 sales on March 2-4 and August 24-26.

**18th Century Thunder**  
Our Revolutionary War Encampment held the Saturday and Sunday of "Thunder Weekend" each April.

**Gardeners' Fair & Auction**  
Friday, Saturday, Sunday — held on the second weekend in May.

**Mothers' Day Brunch**  
Sunday during the Gardeners' Fair. *Reservations required.*

**Two Antiques Markets**  
Held on the last Sundays in June and in September.

**18th Century Market Fair**  
Held Saturday and Sunday on the last weekend in October.

**A Candlelight Christmas**  
Costumed interpreters in the house and out-buildings on Friday and Saturday in early December.

## From the Director's Desk

Carol Ely, Ph.D., *Executive Director*

The generation of Americans who followed the Revolutionary leaders, the “children of the Revolution,” faced the challenge of living up to the bold and innovative acts of their parents’ generation.

The eight children of William and Lucy Croghan were especially challenged. When your father crossed the Delaware with George Washington, and your uncle is George Rogers Clark, “Conqueror of the Old Northwest,” and your *other* uncle is William Clark, who journeyed to the Pacific with Meriwether Lewis and the Corps of Discovery — well, that’s a tough act to follow.

This year and next, our programs will take a look at this generation of the family which was remarkable in its own way. Much of the focus will be on George Croghan, the second son of Lucy and William, and the only one to follow his father and uncle in a military career.

As the nation notes the Bicentennial of the War of 1812, Col. George Croghan’s career as the “Hero of Fort Stephenson” will be the focus of programs around the anniversary of that battle — which took place in Fremont, Ohio, in August of 1813. But for Croghan, that event was the high point in a life that ended in ruin.

George Croghan is an intriguing, difficult character. A handsome and charming man, he struggled with drink and gambling. His marriage to a wealthy, independent woman, Serena Livingston, ended in separation. His family bailed him out of disgrace and trouble, repeatedly.

His life will be the subject of a new independent film, *Old Soldiers*, written by a Locust Grove staff member, **Brian Cushing**, and directed by local filmmaker **Brent Humes**. They are filming around Kentucky and Indiana, with key scenes to be shot at Locust Grove. More details on this in later *Gazettes*.

The interpretation at Locust Grove already focuses on Dr. John Croghan, the eldest son and the last of Lucy and William’s children to live at Locust Grove. Dr. John was a pioneer in tuberculosis research.

Ann Croghan, whose portrait was providentially discovered on eBay a few years ago, married a significant figure in the history of the time — Thomas Jesup, the Quartermaster General of the U.S. Army.

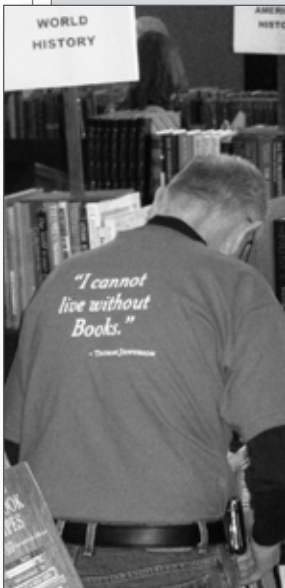
This generation also faced unhealthier living conditions in America as epidemic diseases ran through the population, and the Croghan children died of causes including cholera and tuberculosis.

George’s wife, Serena, followed their married daughter to California around the time of George’s death in 1849, becoming one of the earliest residents of San Francisco. Descendants of the family still live in California and have donated family heirlooms to Locust Grove, including George Rogers Clark’s and George Croghan’s ceremonial swords.

*Carol Ely*

### HLG's Spring Used Book Sale

Members' Preview – March 1  
Open to the Public – March 2-4



The T-shirt proclaims in Thomas Jefferson’s words, “I cannot live without Books.” If it’s the same for you, take heart. Locust Grove’s Spring Used Book Sale will be here the first weekend in March.

Some 14,000 books will be available — all neatly sorted into categories such as history, cooking, children’s, mystery, fiction, sports, literature, arts, travel, religion, audiobooks, CDs, DVDs and much more. Most books are \$1 and \$2, along with a selection of special books at bargain prices.

**All the books in our Used Book Sales have been donated by generous readers.** Without these donations, there would be no Locust Grove Used Book Sales. Thank you.

We accept books all year long. Just drop them off at the Visitors’ Center during regular hours: 10:00 a.m.–4:30 p.m., Mon.–Sat.; 1:00 p.m.–4:30 p.m. on Sunday. (No magazines or textbooks, please.) If you have

more books than you can handle, we’ll pick them up for you! Just call (502) 897-9845 to make arrangements. All donations are tax-deductible. Be sure to pick up a receipt.

#### See you at the Big Spring Sale!

**Members’ Preview** — Thursday, March 1, 5:00 p.m.–7:30 p.m.

**Open to the Public** — Friday–Sunday, March 2–4, 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

Grove Gazette is published quarterly by Historic Locust Grove, Inc. for members, volunteers and supporters of Historic Locust Grove. © 2012

561 Blankenbaker Lane  
Louisville, KY 40207  
(502) 897-9845  
(502) 896-2433  
www.locustgrove.org

The mission of Historic Locust Grove, Inc. is to preserve and interpret the 55-acre site, with its circa 1790 house and out-buildings, the collection, and the gardens, as an example of early 19th century frontier America.

It is also our mission to share the stories of the many people who contributed to the history of Locust Grove, emphasizing the life of General George Rogers Clark, Revolutionary War hero and founder of the city of Louisville.

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##### Grove Gazette

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Jeannie Litterst Zeveau, Docent/Editor  
Photography by: Gary Bourne, Carol Ely,  
Jennifer Jansen, Jeannie Litterst Zeveau,  
Mary Beth Williams

## Primary Source Documents About Historic Locust Grove

# Voices From The Past

Dozens of letters exchanged among the Croghan, Clark, Jesup, and Livingston families attest to the efforts made by the family to save second-son George Croghan's reputation, family, health, and especially, finances. Perpetually in debt, his grand plans came to nothing, he took money that did not belong to him, and otherwise disappointed and horrified those who loved him or were dependent on him.

As described in this letter from William Lindsay to General Thomas Jesup (Croghan's brother-in-law, who used all of his influence to help him), Croghan has again abused a position as a government agent while serving in the post of Inspector General of the Army. Earlier, he had embezzled in his position as New Orleans postmaster.

### Letter to Brigadier General Thomas S. Jesup



Locust Grove's portrait of George Croghan by John Wesley Jarvis. George was Lucy and William Croghan's second son and the only one of their eight children to follow their father and uncles into the military.

N. London Conn 9th August 1828

Dr. Sir

.... When you shall have perceived this letter, I leave you to be the judge whether the course I have taken in a matter so delicate be justified by a sincere friendship for Col Croghan & an anxious desire to save him from a fate ignominious for a man of his exalted character, respectable connections & honorable services.

He came to this commd. on the 8th Inst. During his stay here he was under the influence of intoxication, unhappily connected with so many circumstances of publicity, that it became the theme of conversation amongst the citizens; & the officers of my commd. waited on me in a body with a request that I would report his conduct to the Depart. I decided on making [sic] the report as requested. I will not go into the revolting detail of the circumstances which gave notoriety to the act of his intoxication... he was in the last stages of intoxication.

Wm. Lindsay, Col USA

## 'Discover Books' – HLG's New Series For Book-Lovers

One visit to Locust Grove's twice-yearly Used Book Sales shows that there are a lot of book-lovers in our area. Not only are the aisles crowded with people looking for more great books to explore, but those books had been read and treasured and then donated to Locust Grove for others to devour.

Locust Grove's new "Discover Books" series is directed to people who find the lure of another new book irresistible, those who would like to learn more about local authors and their works, and those who just love to read. The following events will be held in the Visitors' Center Audubon Room:

### WHAT IS IT WORTH? A SHORT COURSE IN VALUING YOUR BOOKS

Thursday, February 23, 7:00–9:00 p.m.

Local book appraiser and consultant to Locust Grove's semi-annual Used Book Sales **Charles Bartman** will tell how to assess the value of the books in your collection and talk about what makes a book valuable. He also will appraise one book for each participant for a \$5 fee. (One book per person, please.)

Admission: \$5; free for Friends of Locust Grove. Light refreshments will be served.

### RARE BIRD

Wednesday, April 18, 7:00–9:00 p.m.

Former Kentucky Poet Laureate and owner of "Poor Richard's" bookstore in Frankfort, Ky., **Richard Taylor** will read from his new book of sonnets called *Rare Bird* and will be available to sign copies. The book chronicles the life of John James Audubon, who spent time at Locust Grove with his good friends Lucy and William Croghan.

Admission: \$5; free for Friends of Locust Grove. Light refreshments will be served.

**Reservation Deposit Due by February 24, 2012**

## Visit Colonial Virginia With HLG

Volunteers and Friends of Locust Grove are invited to participate in a **five-day tour of sites in "The Historic Triangle" of Colonial Virginia, June 11–15, 2012.** You'll get special tours of Colonial Williamsburg, the Great Hopes Plantation — the reconstruction of a "middling plantation," Shirley Plantation — Virginia's first plantation (1613), the reconstructed Jamestown Settlement, and the Yorktown Victory Center.

You'll be traveling in a comfortable air-conditioned motor coach and stay at the Williamsburg Woodlands, a contemporary hotel located next to Colonial Williamsburg's Visitors' Center. The hotel offers a free shuttle from the hotel into the historic area, ideal for leisure-time explorations.

You'll dine at three authentic taverns in Williamsburg's historic district — Chowning's Tavern, King's Arms Tavern, and Shield's Tavern. You'll also enjoy evening programs offered by Colonial Williamsburg and experience "Gambols" — a lively program of rousing period songs lead by balladeers, with the opportunity to participate in Colonial games.

The cost for this five-day trip is \$850, based on double occupancy. This fee includes motor coach transport to and from Williamsburg, four nights at the Williamsburg Woodlands Hotel, four breakfasts, three lunches, and four dinners. (Single supplement is \$225.)

*A deposit of \$100 is due by Friday, February 24,* made payable to Locust Grove. For further information or to sign up for the trip, please call (502) 897-9845.

## New Docent Classes To Begin in February

If you'd like to join Locust Grove's corps of docents (tour guides), here's your opportunity. The three-part training session will begin in late February, with the following two sessions to be held in March and April.

"We do the training over three months to give docent-trainees enough time to learn the material and shadow different docents," explains **Mary Beth Williams**, Locust Grove's program director. "Our goal is to have well-trained docents who can give a meaningful and interesting tour.

"And, of course, training never stops," Mary Beth adds. "We have in-service sessions for all volunteers, lectures, and a rich source of books and other materials in our library."

Requirements for being a docent include an ease of speaking with the public, an interest in history, availability to volunteer at least twice a month, and the ability to go up and down two flights of stairs easily.

Please call Mary Beth at (502) 897-9845 if you're interested in docent training. Class dates will be scheduled once we know the availability of the docent-trainees. We'd love to have you join the Locust Grove family.



One of the three ships you'll see in Jamestown.



The Governor's Palace in Williamsburg.



## Did You Know?

Did you know that one of the children of William and Lucy Croghan is buried in Paris?

Charles Croghan, born in 1802, had a short and unhappy life. His ill health was due to tuberculosis, which also killed his twin brother Nicholas.

After Nicholas' death in 1825, their oldest brother John wrote: "Poor Charles has lost one who alone seemed to attach him to life... his shattered constitution cannot support his recollection of all he has lost."

In an attempt to find solace or a cure, John took Charles to Europe. But Charles died there in October of 1832.

John wrote home: "It is my painful duty to announce to you the death of our beloved Charles. He died on the night of the 21st and was interred in the cemetery of Pere La Chaise on the 23rd ... his corpse was followed to the grave by nearly all of the Americans of this city."

Père Lachaise is one of the most visited cemeteries in the world. Others of note buried there include writers Oscar Wilde, Gertrude Stein, and Honore de Balzac; actors Yves Montand, Sarah Bernhardt,



Docent Patricia Klinck laughs with two visitors.



Père Lachaise Cemetery in Paris.

and Simone Signoret; and composers and musicians Chopin, Edith Piaf, and Jim Morrison (of The Doors).

And now you know.

## 2012 FIRST WEDNESDAY LECTURE SERIES

*Our lecture series this year offers a variety of interesting speakers and unusual topics that relate to the lives of the Croghans, Clark, 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.*

### TWO CENTURIES OF BLACK LOUISVILLE

Wednesday, February 1, 1:00 p.m.

Authors **Mervin Aubespain, Kenneth Clay, and Dr. J. Blaine Hudson** will discuss some of the fascinating discoveries and insights from their new book, *Two Centuries of Black Louisville: A Photographic History*. They'll present an overview of the history of blacks in Louisville, talk about the years when "Old Walnut Street" was the center of the African-American community, and wrap up with a look at the Civil Rights era in Louisville. Copies of their book will be available for sale and autographs.

### DANIEL BOONE: PATHFINDER

Wednesday, March 7, 1:00 p.m.

Daniel Boone was a legend even before his death. But much of what Americans think they know about him is off the mark. Neither a backwoods bumpkin nor an epic slayer of Indians, Daniel Boone was an intrepid explorer and natural leader whose actual exploits amply justify his larger-than-life reputation. He played a crucial role in the exploration and settlement of Kentucky and the American West.

Daniel Boone will be portrayed by **Scott New**, a Kentucky Chautauqua costumed interpreter.



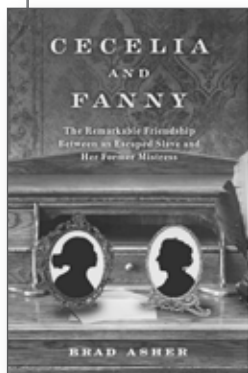
Engraving of Daniel Boone by James Longacre (1835) from an 1820 painting by Chester Harding.

### CECILIA AND FANNY

Wednesday, April 4, 1:00 p.m.

Brad Asher is the author of *Cecilia and Fanny: The Remarkable Friendship between an Escaped Slave and her Former Mistress*. Frances "Fanny" Thruston Ballard was a relative of the Croghans of Locust Grove.

*Cecilia and Fanny* is a fascinating look at race relations in mid-19th-century Louisville, focusing on the experiences of these two women during the seismic social upheaval wrought by the emancipation of four million African Americans.



## LITTLE MANSIONS

Monday, February 6 — Tuesday, February 21  
Visitors' Center Audubon Room

The Louisville Miniature Club, which oversaw the restoration of the Locust Grove dollhouse, will display some fascinating dollhouses in Locust Grove's Visitors' Center. Marvel at the intricacy and skill evident in these charming miniature scenes during regular Visitors' Center hours: 10:00 a.m.–4:30 p.m., Monday–Saturday; 1:00 p.m.–4:30 p.m. on Sunday.

## DOLLHOUSE WORKSHOP

Saturday February 18, 10:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

You may have seen the Locust Grove dollhouse on display in the Visitors' Center Gallery. Now you can learn to make your own miniatures in this special workshop. Members of the **Louisville Miniature Club** — which restored Locust Grove's dollhouse — will help participants make a miniature dollhouse and a basket from kits. The workshop is designed for older teens and adults. Children from 10 to 14 may participate if they're accompanied by an adult. (The accompanying adults do not need to pay for the workshop unless they also are making the miniatures.) The kits for the two items are included in the price of the workshop. Cost: \$25. Call (502) 897-9845 to sign up.



## 2011-2012 EMILIE STRONG SMITH CHAMBER MUSIC SERIES

*This is a rare opportunity to enjoy music much as the Croghans and Clarks would have in the early 1800s. Refreshments are served at 5:00 p.m.; the concerts are held in the Great Parlor in the historic house at 5:30 p.m. Please call (502) 897-9845 for reservations and further information.*

### MUSIC FOR MANNHEIM

Sunday, February 12, 5:30 p.m.

Bostonian **Joyce Alper** returns to Locust Grove to play Mozart's famous Oboe Quartet along with **Bill Bauer and the Locust Grove Chamber Musicians**.

### THE MIDWEST BANDE FOR EARLY MUSIC

Sunday, March 25, 5:00 p.m.

**Joan Parsley**, harpsichordist, leads "The Chains of Love" — a concert including music by Bach, Vivaldi, and others.

## HLG'S BIG SPRING USED BOOK SALE!

### MEMBERS' PREVIEW:

Thursday, March 1, 5:00 p.m.–7:30 p.m.

### OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:

Friday, March 2 – Sunday, March 4

10:00 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

Most books are priced \$1 and \$2, with special books at bargain prices. On Sunday, books are half-price, or you may fill one of our bags for \$10 — whichever is the best deal for you.

*And we always need your books!  
Our two Used Book Sales are possible  
only through your donation of used books.*

Bring your books any time of the year to the Visitors' Center during our regular hours. If you need help getting your books to Locust Grove, call us at (502) 897-9845. We'll arrange for someone to pick them up. Book donations are tax-deductible.



## WHY QUILTS MATTER

Sunday, March 25, 2:00 p.m.

Collector, author, and founder of the Kentucky Quilt Project, **Shelly Zegart**, introduces her new nine-part video series, *Why Quilts Matter* on the role of quilts and quiltmakers in American culture, art, and society. We'll show the first two half-hour episodes today, followed by a question and answer session. The remaining episodes in the series will be shown at Locust Grove in subsequent weeks. Check [www.locustgrove.org](http://www.locustgrove.org) for the schedule.



### DURING JCPS' SPRING BREAK:

## CAMP SHAKESPEARE AT LOCUST GROVE

Monday, April 9 — Thursday, April 12

9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

Friday, April 13, 12:00 Noon –7:00 p.m.

(Performance at 6:00 p.m.)

For Ages 7-13

Camp Shakespeare and Historic Locust Grove join forces to present a unique playwriting camp in a historic setting. During this week-long introduction to theater, you will play theater games, learn elements of playwriting and costume design, and write your own short play. On Friday, you'll perform your play for family and friends at 6:00 p.m. Email **Jordan Rice** at [jordan@kyshakes.org](mailto:jordan@kyshakes.org) or call him at (502) 574-9900, ext. 14 to register. Cost: \$225 per camper. Please bring a sack lunch each day.



## 18TH CENTURY THUNDER: A REVOLUTIONARY WAR ENCAMPMENT

Saturday, April 21 and

Sunday, April 22

10:00 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

Companies representing General George Rogers Clark's troops from the Northwest Campaign will re-enact life in a military camp, including surveying, cooking, drilling, and other demonstrations.

Chat with the soldiers and their families to learn what life would have been like for a soldier 200+ years ago.

Concessions will be available and tours of the house are included. Admission: \$6 for adults, \$3 for children 6-12, and free for children 5 and under. Admission is good for both days.



## GARDENERS' FAIR, AUCTION & BRUNCH

Friday, May 11 — Sunday, May 13, 10:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.



This annual event offers visitors the opportunity to purchase flowers, herbs, and plants along with a variety of tools, artistic and practical gardening accessories, wrought iron sculptures, water gardens, and antique yard furniture among other delightful finds. The silent auction is a fundraiser for Historic Locust Grove — with scores of offerings from antiques, quilts, and other handiwork to art, gardening accessories, and valuable gift certificates. General admission to the event, which includes a tour of Historic Locust Grove, is \$5; \$3 for children ages 6 to 12; free for children under 6.

## MOTHERS' DAY BRUNCH

Sunday, May 13

Seatings: 10:00 a.m., 12:00 Noon, 2:00 p.m.

This is an extremely popular event at the Gardeners' Fair. Because of its high popularity and limited space, *paid reservations are required*. Reservations will be accepted beginning April 1. Call (502) 897-9845 early since the brunch often sells out. Be sure to get on the waiting list if you're unable to make a reservation.

## Kentucky Junior Historical Society—Locust Grove Photo Contest Winners

Last fall, Locust Grove sponsored a photo contest for the Kentucky Junior Historical Society chapter that meets here. The theme was "Autumn," and the students could interpret that theme however they wished. The only requirement was that all photos had to be shot on Locust Grove's 55 acres.

The results were astonishing. The judges received so many excellent entries that the committee had to divide the photographs into two categories — buildings and landscape. The top three winners in each category received small cash awards along with a "Friend of Locust Grove" family membership for one year.

Over the past few years that the KJHS chapter has met at Locust Grove, members have done various service projects here. Many of them are Locust Grove volunteers and costumed interpreters. Pictured are the first-place winning photos and photographers' names.

Congratulations to all of the winners:

### BUILDING:

1st: **Noah Hiner**  
2nd: **Kevin Combs**  
3rd: **Lilly Mooney**

### LANDSCAPE:

1st: **Inanna Delaney**  
2nd: **Julie Goodin**  
3rd: **Noah Hiner**



**BUILDINGS** — First-place-winning photo by Noah Hiner.



**LANDSCAPE** — First-place winning photo by Inanna Delaney.

## Friends of Locust Grove

Enrollment/Renewal from October 1 through December 31, 2011

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'd like to become a Friend, please go online to [www.locustgrove.org](http://www.locustgrove.org), or call us at (502) 897-9845 for further information and details.

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Historic Locust Grove from October 1, 2011  
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These are some of the unexpected delights to be found at Locust Grove's Silent Auction during the **Gardeners' Fair, Friday, May 11 through Sunday, May 13.**

We're grateful to the scores of individuals, groups, and businesses whose generous donations make the Gardeners' Fair Silent Auction so irresistible. If you'd like to donate, please call the Visitors' Center at (502) 897-9845. You'll receive an acknowledgement of your donation for tax purposes. Thank you!

