

GROVE GAZETTE

Historic Locust Grove

561 Blankenbaker Lane

Louisville, KY 40207

(502) 897-9845

www.locustgrove.org



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Nina Ayers Spirit Award Winner

If you've toured Locust Grove during a special event, most likely you've been greeted at the House by **Nina Ayers**, this quarter's Spirit Award Winner.

That's just one of the many activities in which Nina has been involved since doing her docent training in 2003. "You ask what I've done at Locust Grove? It's more like what I haven't done," she laughs.

"Being a docent means you do whatever needs to be done. I've given tours to the public and to school groups. I attend every lecture, symposium, and informational tour that's offered. I've sorted books, set tables, put away chairs, swept the porch, stocked the gift shop, sought donations for the

silent action, and, well, more things than I can remember."

Docent **Bob Smith** and volunteer **Jane Smith** are at Locust Grove every Monday morning with Nina. "Nina is more than generous with her time," says **Jane Smith**. "She's often here three or more days in one week — while deftly juggling a busy family with a bevy of granddaughters, keeping the books for her husband's law business, and caring for her beloved dogs."

Adds **Bob Smith**, "Nina is well-versed in the history of the house and the people associated with it. She handles walk-in visitors, school groups, committee duties, and special events with



aplomb. I know that some of her encounters with visitors would make a good book!"

Nina has been a member of the Volunteer Steering Committee for several years and will soon chair that committee. "She's dedicated and dependable," says Program Director **Mary Beth Williams**, "always willing to fill in for the many school groups we have each year. Plus, she bakes hundreds of batches of cornbread for the Craft Sampler school tours every year. Thanks, Nina!"

Yearly Events Mark Your Calendars!

Afternoon Lecture Series

1:00 p.m. — the first Wednesday of the month (except January and May).

Two Used Book Sales

Great book bargains abound during the second weekend in March and last weekend in August.

18th Century Thunder

Our Revolutionary War Encampment — held the Saturday and Sunday of "Thunder Weekend" in April.

Gardeners' Fair & Auction

Friday, Saturday, Sunday — held the second weekend in May.

Mothers' Day Brunch

Sunday during the Gardeners' Fair. *Reservations required.*

Two Antiques Markets

Held on the last Sunday in June and in September.

18th Century Market Fair

Held Saturday and Sunday on the last weekend in October.

Holiday Candlelight Tours

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*

Locust Grove starts with a place – a house, fields, walls, bricks, stones, trees, soil. But to fully understand the people who lived here and their stories, we go back to study what they wrote — the primary source documents.

Public records help with the story, including tax records, censuses, and wills. In the case of people as prominent as the residents of Locust Grove, we are fortunate to have many family letters to help us learn who they were, their relationships, and what concerned them.

Those letters are scattered today among dozens of archives from New York to Missouri, from the Library of Congress to

the Chicago Historical Society, often buried in collections of other people's papers.

In the 1960s, **Samuel Thomas**, then the site curator, collected and transcribed parts of hundreds of Clark- and Croghan-related documents. These documents have formed the basis of our interpretations ever since.

In those early years of understanding these families, the personalities and interplay of characters were still being uncovered, and the search for documents focused on the public world of Clark and the Croghans.

We've always understood that this is a partial record. Much of the correspondence did not survive and some is still in private

hands. And the 1960s' transcripts we have are incomplete, tending to skim over areas of more domestic concern. There is not much said about daily life, about farming, about the House and its decoration, nor about the enslaved people of Locust Grove.

Lucy Croghan wrote very little that survives, and William Croghan wrote almost exclusively about land, business, and public affairs. Their children's letters are more revealing of family tensions, celebrations, and character as they wrote to each other as they grew up and moved away from Louisville.

This year we are going back to the sources. Thanks to a grant from the Kentucky Colonels, we've had the relevant microfilm from other archives digitized so we can view and enhance the documents by computer. And we plan to begin the process of checking and adding to the transcriptions that we have.

We have also recently purchased several family documents, including letters from the Croghans' daughter Ann Croghan Jesup in Washington D.C. and son Charles Croghan in Louisville to their sister Eliza Hancock in Virginia. These letters provide details of family life that we never knew before. In one of these letters, we learned why we have so few letters from Lucy.

Starting with this issue of *Grove Gazette*, we'll share some of these discoveries — giving you the "primary source" transcriptions of these fascinating and valuable documents about the Croghans and Clarks and all those who made Locust Grove such a vital and important player in the Falls of the Ohio region.

Carol Ely

Used Book Sale Success Depends On You!



"Where in the world do you get all these wonderful books?" our shoppers often ask.

The answer: **"From you!"**

Locust Grove's semi-annual Used Book Sales are appealing to book lovers for one big reason — that so many book lovers in our area donate *their* used books to Locust Grove. And then they mark their calendars for the second weekend in March and the last weekend in August — the dates of our semi-annual sales — so they can stock up again!

All proceeds from our Used Book Sales support Locust Grove's education and restoration projects. So be sure to pick up a tax-donation receipt when you drop off your books.

History, biography, cooking, children's, mystery, fiction, DVDs, CDs, audiobooks, reference, art, crafts, literature — we love it all! Drop off your book donations all year long during regular Visitors Center hours (10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday-Saturday; 1-4:30 p.m. on Sunday). If you have more books than you can handle, we'll pick them up at your house. Just call (502) 897-9845 to make arrangements.

And thanks for helping to make Historic Locust Grove's Used Book Sales such a success!

Grove Gazette is published quarterly by Historic Locust Grove, Inc. for members, volunteers and supporters of Historic Locust Grove. © 2010

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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Primary Source Documents About Historic Locust Grove

Voices From The Past

We've always been tantalized by an ellipsis in a transcription done in the 1960s by former site curator Sam Thomas of a letter from Fanny Fitzhugh (Lucy's sister) to her son John O'Fallon, written in 1824. She is about to describe plants from her Louisville garden, but the transcript inserts "... " to indicate that the information was not available. Since we know very little about the ornamental and practical plantings at Locust Grove and similar houses of the era, we'd always wondered what Fanny had to say. With the acquisition of copies of the original manuscript housed at the Missouri Historical Society, we now know what that missing description is. And the garden sounds lovely!

(The original manuscript is found at the Missouri Historical Society.

This is a direct transcription, including original spelling. The brackets indicate illegible words.)

Fanny Fitzhugh (Louisville) to John O'Fallon (St. Louis), 25 March 1824 – By Steamboat

I have sent you a keg of flowering shrubbery & fruit [vines?]; the English raspberry & a few peach trees of superior kind, the flowering [Louis?] lilack, flowering ammon etc. I have also sent you a Box of beautiful flower roots which I hope you will take much care of as I have been at a good deal of pains to procure them. Not having many in my own garden I don't recollect all their names. These are snow white lilly, Tulips, John quil and a variety of others which you must find out. I have not been able to get but one very small [?] of the snowball which you will find wrapted in a piece of paper in the box.

I mean you should not separate them, plant them well in a [?] They had better not be divided this year, next year if they do well you can let your Brother and Sister have some or I can send more when they are ready for them. I have also sent a keg of Fruit to Ben, and a small keg to your Aunt Clark containing the Alpine Raspberry and snowdrop that she sent for, English Raspberry, yellow rose, some fruit, etc. Ben's keg has pears, quince, peaches, the smallest peach trees are the soft peach as are yours in your box, yellow rose, golden white, Plumbs damson.



"Flowering lilacs" are still a fragrant and showy feature of Locust Grove's springtime garden.

Historic Locust Grove, Inc.'s New Directors

Locust Grove welcomes four new members of the Board of Directors for the 2010-2011 year:

- ☛ **Chris Green**, Treasurer, is a partner in the accounting firm of Mountjoy, Chilton, Medley. He first came to Locust Grove several years ago to do our annual audit, and now has joined the Board to help us steer our finances with his professional skills.
- ☛ **Susan Reigler**, Board Secretary, was born and raised in Louisville near Locust Grove and has a master's degree in Zoology. She is the former restaurant critic for the *Louisville Courier-Journal*, a musician and author, and now lives at Blackacre and teaches biology at Indiana University-Southeast.
- ☛ **Christi Lanier-Robinson** is a public relations professional. She has worked for the healthcare industry, was the first black president of the Junior League of Louisville, and currently works for the Ohio River Bridges Authority.
- ☛ **George Plager** is an Iowa native, a passionate bicyclist, and a former UPS employee. He is a current Locust Grove docent and member of the Volunteer Steering Committee.

Volunteers Visit Mammoth Cave Sites Linked to Locust Grove

In September, some 30 Locust Grove volunteers went to Mammoth Cave to learn more about its link to Locust Grove and to see evidence of the Croghan family's close ties to this world's longest cave system.

After Lucy and William Croghan's eldest son John purchased the cave for \$10,000 in 1839, Mammoth Cave remained in the Croghan family until it was sold to the National Park Service in the 1920s.

Several of Lucy and William's sons were frequent visitors in the cave during the 1820s — as evidenced by Nicholas Croghan's name made by smoke smudges in 1825, which can be seen even today on a ceiling in the cave. Nicholas and his twin brother Charles also lived in the Mammoth Cave area for several years.

When John Croghan purchased the cave, it already was a tourist attraction. But John, a medical doctor, believed that the "uniformity of temperature ... [and] the dryness of the atmosphere ..." would make "... a spot so desirable for persons laboring under pulmonary affections, chronic Rheumatism, diseases of the eye, etc. ..."



But the project Dr. John Croghan started in 1842 was abandoned in less than a year. Two of the hospital's stone buildings still stand — a portion of the community center and the doctor's office, pictured here at the left.

Cave tours were never stopped, though, and Mammoth Cave continued to grow as a tourist attraction. John Croghan was most fortunate to have purchased several highly competent cave guides along with the cave. The most famous and perhaps most accomplished of these slaves was Stephen Bishop.

In 1842, Croghan brought Stephen to Locust Grove to draw a map, from memory, of the cave system. The Bishop Map is quite impressive, showing some 10 miles of cave passages, half of which were discovered by him. Stephen was an intrepid and brave guide, the first to cross what is now known as The Bottomless Pit. Places such as Fat man's Misery, Cleaveland Avenue, and Mammoth Dome are among other notable places he discovered.

The Bishop map also was the first to suggest the amazing scale of Mammoth Cave. Unusually for a slave, Stephen Bishop was given full credit for his work. The Bishop map remained in use for more than 40 years.

The Locust Grove volunteers returned home with a renewed respect for the Croghan family's adventurous spirit and entrepreneurial drive.



From the Garden

Sarah Sutherland, Locust Grove Gardener

Everybody's thinking fall — crisp days, football games, Hallowe'en. But wait! Now's the time to think ahead to spring and start saving your seeds.

While seed saving can be an arcane art, the basic rule of thumb is this — if it dries easily in the plant, let it do so, and then crumble the flower heads into a bowl.

Preparing Dry Seeds

You can sift the seeds out or not. (Planting them with dried petals and chaff is perfectly OK.) Easy seeds to dry and save are from sunflowers, marigolds, cleome, balsam, impatiens, cockscomb, and zinnia.

Preparing Wet Seeds

Wet things like tomatoes and squash are best gathered over-ripe. Squeeze or scrape the seeds into a bowl and let them ferment a couple of days (longer for tomatoes) so the jelly around the seeds breaks down just like in nature. Yes, it will smell a bit.

Rinse in a sieve and dry them out. I usually dry the "wet" ones on paper towels or a sheet of newspaper. They may stick a bit, but easily scrape off with fingernails or a butter knife.

Storing All Seeds

You might want to leave the cap off for a couple of days to be absolutely sure they're dry. But always store them in a bottle or jar in the fridge so the seeds stay viable. Be sure to seal the bottles tightly so the refrigerated air doesn't dry out the seeds.

Don't forget to label your bottles or you'll be wondering come summer why cosmos are coming up where you planted coreopsis!

If you're still not sure how to save those seeds, just crumble the flower heads wholesale into a zipper plastic bag and store in the refrigerator. Then come spring, scatter the contents over turned soil, water them in, and smile.

But if seed saving isn't your thing — each fall, we save the seeds from plants grown here at Locust Grove and sell them in our Museum Store in the spring.



2010 FIRST WEDNESDAY LECTURE SERIES

This year's theme is "American Revolutions: How Society Changed During the Revolutionary Era." 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.

PORTRAIT OF EARLY FAMILIES IN FRANKFORT

Wednesday, November 3, 1:00 p.m.

The early settlers of Frankfort reflect in microcosm the enormous changes that took place in Kentucky life-styles caused by migration, war, and the increasing role of women in keeping families together.

Artist **Sallie Clay Lanham** and civic leader and history enthusiast **Nash Cox** will talk about the stories found in their book, *Portrait of Early Families in the Frankfort Area*. This community history focuses on the pioneer families who settled Kentucky's capital during the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812. The richly illustrated volume also shows an evolution in portraiture from the rich oil portraits of the early 19th century to the soft pastels of Paul Sawyer and the increasing documentation of family life through photography.

LOUISVILLE DULCIMER SOCIETY HOLIDAY CONCERT

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

Each year, Louisville Dulcimer Society members delight our audience with joyous traditional holiday music played on the Appalachian dulcimer — Kentucky's official state instrument — along with other folk instruments such as the hammered dulcimer, the fiddle, the banjo, and even a washtub.

It's a great way to kick off the holiday season and conclude another successful year of afternoon lectures.

Come early to enjoy the delicious treats provided by Locust Grove's hospitality committee — and to find some good seats!

Happy holidays!



18TH CENTURY MARKET FAIR

**Saturday and Sunday, October 30 and 31
10:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.**



Step back two centuries to a time when people gathered to trade goods, socialize, and be entertained. Shop for 18th century goods — such as blankets, soaps, games, fabrics, candles, and pottery — great for today's living, too! Cheer for enthusiastic entertainers and musicians. Enjoy

hearty fare, sweets, and drinks typical of the late 1700s. Tour the American, British,

and Native American encampments, talk with soldier-reenactors and their families, and hear musket fire and cannons

roar as you watch the military displays. Admission is \$6 for adults, \$3 for children aged 6 to 12, and free for children 5 and under. Admission includes a tour of the

newly restored historic house museum and is good for both days.



Historic Locust Grove
CALENDAR

PUBLIC MEETING: LEWIS & CLARK TRAIL EXTENSION PROPOSAL

Wednesday, November 3, 5:00 p.m.–7:00 p.m.



Reenactors portraying Meriwether Lewis and William Clark ride to Locust Grove in 2006 to commemorate the explorers' dinner at Locust Grove on November 8, 1806. It was part of Louisville's Lewis & Clark Bicentennial Celebration.

The official Lewis & Clark Trail — a program of the National Park Service (NPS) — begins and ends the story of the historic journey in Missouri. For years, enthusiasts and historians have urged an extension of the trail to its logical conclusion in Washington, D.C., when the explorers reported back to President Jefferson. This would include a strong role for Louisville's Lewis & Clark-related sites such as Locust Grove, the Filson Historical Society, and the Falls of the Ohio State Park.

Now the NPS is listening. Come to a public meeting and show your support for the Trail Extension which will include the "Eastern Legacy." It's a free event to be held in the Visitors Center auditorium at Locust Grove. (502) 897-9845.

EMILIE STRONG SMITH CHAMBER CONCERTS

This is a rare opportunity to enjoy music much like the Croghans and Clarks would have done in the early 1800s. We have three levels of support for the four concerts in our Chamber Music Series— Patrons, \$200; Supporter, \$100; and Season Subscriber, \$65. Individual concert tickets may be purchased at \$20 each.

THE POET AND THE HARPER:

ANCIENT MUSIC FROM IRELAND AND WALES

Sunday, November 14, 2010, 5:00 p.m.

'NOLLAIG SHONA DUIT' — AN IRISH CHRISTMAS

Sunday, December 12, 2010, 5:00 p.m.

(See descriptions of the 2010-2011 season on the next page.)

LOCUST GROVE MUSEUM STORE SALE

Friday, November 26 through Sunday, December 5

For special Christmas gifts without traffic hassles, shop our Museum Store! During this sale, you'll receive a 20 percent discount on all purchases. The museum store carries a wide array of stationery, music, toys, special books, and Kentucky-made foods and crafts.

HOLIDAY CRAFT SAMPLER

Friday, November 28 — The day after Thanksgiving!

Demonstrations — 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Last tour starts — 3:15 p.m.



Here's the perfect way to entertain your Thanksgiving visitors! Experience the early 19th century at Locust Grove. You'll be able to interact with our woodworker, our cook, and our spinner in the out-buildings, and experience the beautifully restored interior of the house. And it's all included in our regular admission!

HOLIDAY CANDLELIGHT TOURS

Friday, December 10, 5:30 p.m.–9:00 p.m.

Saturday, December 11, 1:00 p.m.–9:00 p.m.



This year, it's 1810 and Locust Grove's William and Lucy (Clark) Croghan will welcome guests to their newly decorated home. They'll be joined by family members, including General George Rogers Clark,

who's been living with his sister and brother-in-law for a year now. Many other Clarks and Croghans will be on hand to chat with guests and enjoy the dances in the Great Parlor.

You may also enjoy **Cream Tea** in "The Candlelight Tearoom" by the fireplace in the Visitors Center on Saturday, with seatings at 2:00 p.m., 3:00 p.m., and 4:00 p.m. Assorted teas will accompany scones, clotted cream, jams,

and sweets at each seating.

The cost is

\$15 per person (\$10 for children 12 and under) and includes the Candlelight Tour.

Reservations for the tea are required and will be taken starting on November 1st.

On the other side of the Visitors Center auditorium, guests may shop at the



Holiday Book Sale, offering a fine selection of quality and other special books — perfect for holiday gift-giving. The book sale is open Friday and Saturday, 12 Noon to 9:00 p.m.



2010-2011 Emilie Strong Smith Chamber Music Series

These concerts allow you to experience music much like the Croghans and Clarks would have done in the early 1800s.

Light refreshments are served on the first floor of the historic house at 5:00 p.m.; the concerts are at 5:30 p.m. in the Grand Parlor. Please call (502) 897-9845 for further information and to purchase season subscriptions or individual tickets.

The Poet and the Harper:

Ancient Music from Ireland and Wales

Sunday, November 14, 2010, 5:00 p.m.

This is an exciting multimedia program exploring the soundscape of Irish and Welsh professional harpers and poets from the Middle Ages to 1750. The poetry of the ancient bards required instrumental accompaniment — and the once commonplace Welsh harp with buzzing bray pins and Irish harp with brass and Sterling silver strings were the only suitable instruments. Come hear early music specialists **Keith Collins** (harps and lyres) and **David Wood** (voice) present a rare program of solo harp music, accompanied poetry and song.

'Nollaig Shona Duit' — An Irish Christmas

Sunday,
December 12, 2010,
5:00 p.m.

What is the meaning of this Gaelic phrase? Do you know what "The Wren Boy" procession is? Join **Bill Bauer and the Locust Grove Chamber Musicians** for a presentation of yuletide Irish music, traditions and customs.



Bill Bauer and the Locust Grove Chamber Musicians at one of last season's concerts.

A Short History of the Early Guitar

Sunday, January 23, 2011, 5:00 p.m.

This concert by guitarist **Jeffrey Noonan** features music from the 16th, 17th and 19th centuries played on instruments from those eras. Pieces for the four-course Renaissance guitar include music from France and Spain; music for Baroque guitar features dances and suites from Spain, France, and Italy. Music for the 19th century guitar includes variation sets and a sonata by Italian virtuoso Mauro Giuliani and Spaniard Fernando Sor. The instruments used for the concert are modern reproductions of the Renaissance and Baroque guitars, while the 19th-century instrument dates from the 1850s.

Haydn, Handel, and Hoboes

Sunday, March 13, 2011, 5:00 p.m.

Joyce Alper, historical woodwind conservation consultant to Boston's Museum of Fine Arts and a veteran of Boston's Handel & Haydn Society, is the featured performer. She'll present chamber music featuring the classical oboe, along with **Bill Bauer and the Locust Grove Chamber Musicians**.

Friends of Locust Grove

Enrollment/Renewal from July 1 through September 30, 2010

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, or call us at (502) 897-9845 for further information and details.

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Yearly memberships in the Friends of Locust Grove are available in three categories:

Individual — \$35

Family — \$50

Student — \$15

For membership information and details, please call us at (502) 897-9845

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But — and this is most important — in order for Locust Grove to get a donation, you must go first to the link on Locust Grove's web page before you start shopping at the online merchants.

The link is at the lower right-hand corner of our home page at www.locustgrove.org, as well as on our store page. The "Shop for Our Museum" site will then connect you to the online merchant's website, and then you shop as you normally would. Your donation is anonymous unless you choose to tell us. We hope you will tell us, though, so we can thank you.

All this costs you nothing. But it raises money for Historic Locust Grove.



Please click this logo on www.locustgrove.org BEFORE you shop online!

Locust Grove's Summer Camps For Kids – Always Great Fun!



These 2010 Woodworking campers proudly display the birdhouses they built — one of the many projects that junior carpenters have created over the years. Locust Grove carpenters **Fred Atkinson** and **Bob Smith** show the Woodworking campers techniques from the 19th century and patiently instruct the campers on the correct and safe use of hammers, saws, and other tools.

Kids delightedly participated in three other camps held this summer at Locust Grove — **Archaeology Camp** for ages 9-11, **Pioneer Camp** for ages 7-10, and a new **Craft Camp** for ages 8-14. Registration for the 2011 camps begins in March. Be sure to check Locust Grove's website in early Spring to reserve your child's place in history next summer.

Help Decorate the House For HLG's Candlelight Tours

Here's your opportunity to learn more about the "Williamsburg" style of decorating for the holidays — with wreaths, cedar rope, apples, lemons, pineapples, candles and other natural items.

Locust Grove is looking for volunteers to help bring the Christmas spirit to our historic House in time for the Candlelight tours the second weekend in December. No experience is necessary, just an enthusiasm to learn and a chance to be creative!



Please call **Mary Beth Williams** at (502) 897-9845 or email her at williams@locustgrove.org for more information and to volunteer.

Many Thanks to Our Donors

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.

Thanks to the following people for their most recent donations.

In Memory of Martin Schmidt
Alba B. Jennings

Underwriting of August Book Sale
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Guy & Elizabeth Montgomery
Horizon Research International
Paul's Fruit Market
Joan H. Todd
Jeannie & John Vezeau
Richard Young/All Booked Up

Underwriting of Antiques Market

The Antique Market at
Distillery Commons
The Crazy Daisy Antique Mall
Crescent Hill Trading Co. LLC
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