

GROVE GAZETTE

Historic Locust Grove

561 Blankenbaker Lane

Louisville, KY 40207

(502) 897-9845

www.locustgrove.org



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Barb Runquist – Spirit Award Winner

Barbara Runquist, our “cheerful gardener,” is this quarter’s winner. Barb works with HLG Gardener **Sarah Dickerson Sutherland**, who notes that Barb has been in the Grove’s gardens longer than she has.

Barb is found here every Wednesday, no matter the weather. Sarah is always amazed at Barb’s great enthusiasm. While Barb calls herself “the wimpy weeder,” the nickname just isn’t accurate. With her own little rake in hand, she arrives early and stays for hours, pulling out weeds — hardly wimpy behavior!

Barb loves local history and is a regular at our monthly lecture series. She is also a member of the Beargrass-St. Matthews

Historical Society, the Louisville Historical League, and the Filson Historical Society. Because Barb just can’t stop learning, she also takes many Veritas classes at Bellarmine.

But all this still doesn’t keep her busy enough. So she also volunteers at The Kentucky Center and at Blackacre Nature Preserve and Historic Homestead. When you ask her about her busy schedule, she explains that she wants to do everything she couldn’t do when she was working.

Barb loves the outdoors and the feeling she gets at the Grove.

“If I get here early in the morning, particularly in the fall, it’s so quiet — and takes me back in time. It’s lovely.”



Barb loves meeting all of the people who come to the site. She fondly remembers the man who made a path of rose petals to a spot on the grounds where he proposed to his fiancée.

She loves working with the other volunteers and notes that her time here “is great fun. And I’m glad I can give something back.”

But we know that she always gives back, and we thank her for her great dedication to our beautiful gardens.

Yearly Events Mark Your Calendars!

Afternoon Lecture Series

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

Used Book Sale

Great book bargains to support Locust Grove’s programs — held the second weekend in March.

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.*

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.

Holiday Candlelight Tours

Costumed interpreters in the house and out-buildings on Friday and Saturday in early December.

GROVE GAZETTE

From The Director's Desk

Carol Ely, Ph.D., Executive Director

At last!

After years of fundraising and planning, we'll be breaking ground for the expansion of our exhibit gallery in early October. Our contractor, Bornstein Building Company, will start construction on an extension on the south side (Blankenbaker Road side) of the Visitors Center.

The expanded space will hold a new permanent exhibit that will tell the story of George Rogers Clark and Locust Grove in a vivid and exciting way. The new gallery is being created by the Louisville exhibit design firm, Solid Light, working with our own exhibit committee.

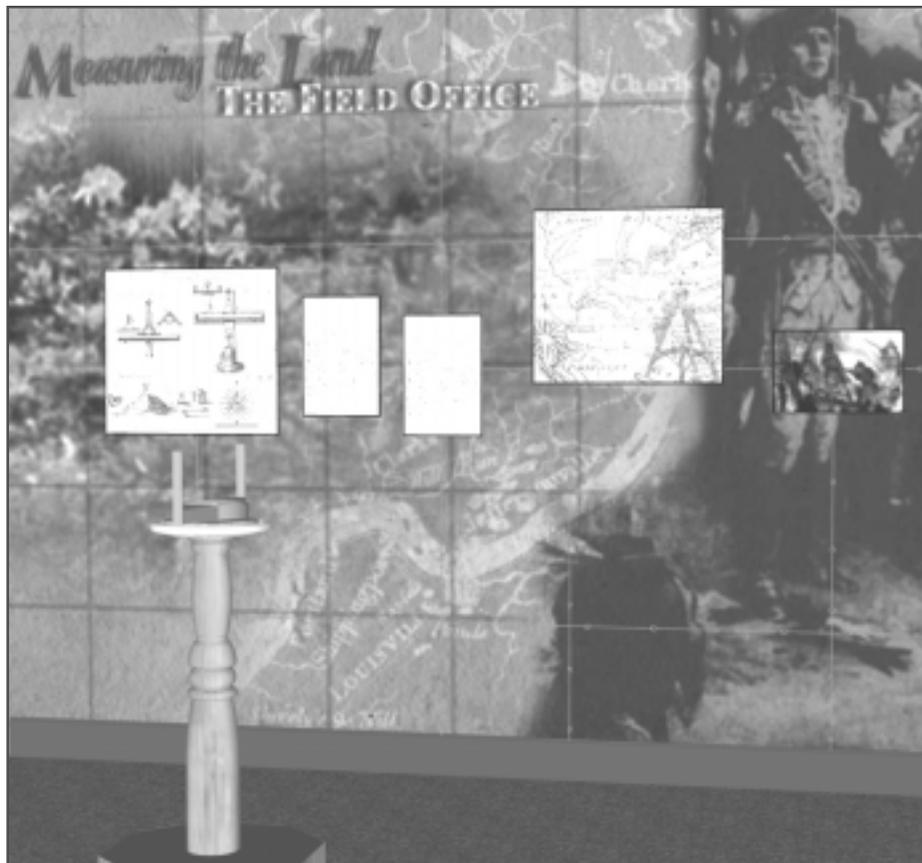
The construction work on the building itself, which is not expected to interrupt normal operations of the site, will last until early spring. At that point, the exhibit fabricators move in, and we hope that the new facility will open to the public by the summer of 2008.

During this time, our existing exhibit gallery will be closed, and activities scheduled in the gallery, such as showing our introductory film, will move to the auditorium on the north end of the building. All of our special weekend events and rentals on the grounds will continue as before.

This project is the result of generous financial gifts from many donors and unselfish gifts of time and ideas from many volunteers, including Board and committee members of Historic Locust Grove.

Overall, the theme is the land – achieving political control during the Revolution, mapping and surveying it for settlement, and, at Locust Grove, the many tasks of working the land as a farm.

From the start, we wanted to tell the stories that are difficult to communicate through the historic house itself, including the military career of General Clark, which



Concept sketch for a segment of the new Locust Grove permanent exhibit by Solid Light, Inc.

happened before he moved to Locust Grove and in a different area of the country. Maps and diagrams will help visitors understand the vital strategic importance of his capture of Vincennes, and ultimately the entire Northwest Territory, in the western campaigns of the American Revolution.

The story moves on to an understanding of the skills and role of surveyors (both Clark and Locust Grove owner William Croghan were surveyors) in dividing the land for settlement. Both a field surveying camp and Croghan's surveying and land office (recreated in a room of our existing log house) will be part of the exhibition.

Finally, through permanent features and changing exhibits, we will use the gallery as an introduction to the people who lived and worked at Locust Grove. This will include

the Croghan and extended Clark family, enslaved African-Americans, neighbors, and visitors, and the stories will be continued during the docent-led site tour.

A final display concerns the history of the house and site itself — through the changes of time, owners, and the restoration in the 1960s. Throughout, interactive elements will be designed to give children (and adults) hands-on experiences.

We're all excited to embark on this new journey. The next few months will be hectic here, but the final result will be a wonderful expansion of our ability to reach and communicate with our visitors. And that's what it's all about.

Carol Ely

Grove Gazette is published quarterly by Historic Locust Grove, Inc. for members, volunteers and friends of Historic Locust Grove. © 2007

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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Getting To Know Locust Grove's Costumed Interpreters

Jamie Eiler is Owen Gwathmey

How did you select Owen Gwathmey as the person you would portray?

I think Owen chose me. Owen is 5'6" tall, a wiry little man who, at the age of 67, will outlive his wife by eight years! He married the oldest of the Clark girls, Lucy Clark Croghan's sister Ann.

Considering the husband of his sister-in-law Lucy, he is fond of saying, "Major Croghan is a born Irishman; the Clarks are all Scotsmen; but I am the only Welshman in the group." Hardly the type to stop at a few lines, Owen is likely to continue, "Still, my mother would blush to hear me say it. She always claimed to be descended from a maid of honor to Queen Elizabeth."

What are some of the characteristics of Owen Gwathmey?

Perhaps he feels a sense of inadequacy having married into such a prominent and successful family, but he would be loath to

admit it. His own Revolutionary War service was limited, compared to the heroes among his brothers-in-law. And yet, he would consider himself second to none as a patriot.

He is quick to praise his relatives' accomplishments, just as he will quickly recommend his own services as a Louisville merchant. If you admire the wallpaper in the ballroom, he will gladly remind you that the pattern is available on order, direct from Paris, at his store in town.

Should you be planning to stay the night in the city, he would recommend his son John's tavern. "Modeled after the famous Indian Queen Tavern in Philadelphia where President Jefferson wrote the Declaration of Independence," Owen would say, "my son's tavern, too, is called the Indian Queen. Indeed, it is the finest hostelry in town. I advise you to make arrangement for accommodation early so that you may need only sleep two or three to a bed."

What are some of the things you do to make Owen Gwathmey come to life?

To present the character, I hold myself very erect. I suppose this could be an attempt to help him measure up to the tallness of the Clarks. But it's also an indication of his self-worth and noble standards.

If some 21st century gentlemen visitors come to Locust Grove in shorts, I have them follow me in making the proper bow when wearing knee breeches — with their "best foot forward." After all, it was General Washington



who said, "The ladies do admire a well-turned calf."

I also try to be exacting in my speech, being careful to avoid expressions that would have been completely unfamiliar in the early 1800s.

I love to interact with our 21st century visitors, tell stories, and depict the period to be as exciting as it was. I love to pose for "portraits," but always react with surprise to the "lightning" [camera flash] that visitors use to create their pictures.

How did you research your character?

I went to a variety of sources. The Internet, of course. And **Jim Holmberg's** book, *Dear Brother*, is a basic text for sorting out the various family relationships. My comment about Queen Elizabeth are from a collection of historic notes about Middletown, Ky.

We also have several well-illustrated coffee table-style histories of the city, published in the 1900s. And there are some great books in Locust Grove's library. Plus, there's always the incredible knowledge of other costumed interpreters and HLG's staff.



From: 'George Rogers Clark and Locust Grove'
by Gwynne Tuell Potts and Samuel Thomas

LG Site Saved By a \$400 Margin

How did Locust Grove come to be preserved when so much of the heritage of early Kentucky was being destroyed for development? The fate of Locust Grove was unsure in the early 1960s as suburbanization grew relentlessly along the Brownsboro and River Roads corridor, as this excerpt from the book chronicles. This excerpt is from Pages 127-128:

In the summer of 1961, Jefferson County Judge Bertram C. Van Arsdale discussed with local attorney Millard Cox the possibility of Jefferson Fiscal Court and the State Department of Parks acquiring the Cooke property for a state park and the property that included the Waters' house for "an historic shrine and tourist attraction." "The birth of an historic shrine or death of a famous house will be sealed when Locust Grove is sold at auction July 24," *The Louisville Times* announced in a full page of photographs, 19 July 1961. On the appointed day, at the courthouse door, the Commonwealth of Kentucky and Jefferson County jointly purchased 55.15 acres that included the historic residence for \$250,000.

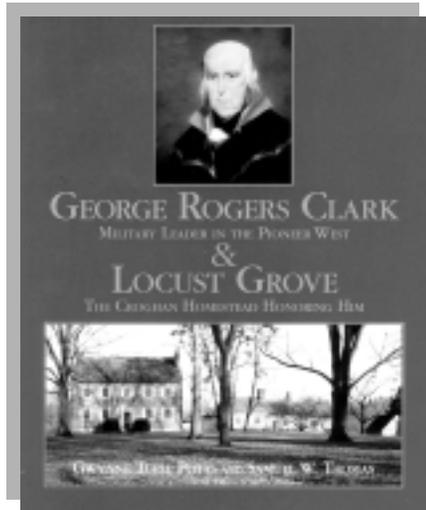
The court authorized real-estate dealer John R. Carpenter to bid as high as \$250,000 for the property. Bidding started at \$200,000, fixed as a minimum by the court in an action settling the estate of Mrs. Lily Scott Waters. In spirited bidding, the price inched up until Carpenter's bid – the 43rd – was successful. The previous high bid had been \$249,600.

"What must be done there cannot be done hurriedly or in a slapdash manner," County Judge Van Arsdale cautioned. "It requires some artistry, considerable experience ... and a certain degree of reverence and appreciation of what the past means to the present." Only days after Locust Grove's purchase, the noted Washington

restoration architect, Walter Mayo Macomber, inspected the site while in town to address the incorporation of the Old Louisville Association. Macomber was in charge of the restoration of Washington's Mount Vernon, the Lee family's Stratford, Patrick Henry's Scotchtown, and Ford's Theater, and ... had supervised the Colonial Williamsburg restoration from 1928-1934. ...

"Farmington had been saved from destruction and that fine Jeffersonian house was under the care of a devoted board. Now it was time to assure an equally bright future for Locust Grove," Barry Bingham Sr. later recalled. "A different but similar group of preservation-minded people had organized a successful drive to save Locust Grove, with its heroic memories of George Rogers Clark and its chaste, almost austere classic style."

Authors: Gwynne Tuell Potts and Samuel Thomas.



This new book – a great read for any history buff – is available at Locust Grove's Museum Store and from our website at www.locustgrove.org.

HLG In The News

◆ *Today's Woman* magazine in July 2007 featured HLG cook reenactor/docent/costumed interpreter **Diane Stalter** in a two-page spread. The article focused on Diane as



she demonstrated hearth cooking during a "Craft Sampler" with students from two area schools. In "A Heart for the Hearth," the reporter described the points our cook reenactors make about how food was prepared in the early 1800s, and even included a few recipes. Four color photos of Diane at work, and some of the food that she prepared, accompanied the article.

◆ An article in Louisville's *The Courier-Journal* on July 16 reported on the first meeting of the Louisville regional "Jane Austen Society." HLG Executive Director **Carol Ely** agreed with Marketing Coordinator **Bonny Wise** that Locust Grove would be the perfect host for such a group, since Jane Austen's writings cover the same early 19th century period as Locust Grove's site interpretation.



The 36 people who attended the first meeting will form the nucleus of this new chapter of the Jane Austen Society of North America. The new Society will have programs that cover the food, customs, dress, dances, and other writers of the era, as well as Jane Austen. In the article, Bonny adds that anyone interested in joining the new group may contact her at HLG, (502) 897-9845.

Locust Grove Stakes at Churchill Downs

Lucy Clark Croghan (Mandy Dick) presents the Locust Grove Stakes trophy to winning jockey Julien Leparoux and owner Maurice Hassan at Churchill Downs on July 8th. Next to Lucy is her sister Ann Gwathmey (Janice Sidebottom), Ann's daughter Lucy (Misti Sidebottom), and Ann's husband Owen (Jamie Eiler). In the second row are Locust Grove staff, Friends and supporters.



2007 AFTERNOON LECTURE SERIES

The theme of this year's series is "They Came to Locust Grove: Important Visitors to the Home." The Education Committee gives many thanks to volunteer Melzie Wilson for inspiring this year's lecture series title with her recently published book, "They Came to Locust Grove."

Lectures are held on the first Wednesday of each month, except for January and May.

Desserts and coffee are served at 1:00 p.m., with the lecture immediately following. Admission is \$5, or \$3 for Friends of Locust Grove.

AARON BURR

Wednesday, September 5

Walter Baker, Kentucky Historical Society president, former Kentucky State Senator and Judge of the Court of Appeals, will talk about Aaron Burr, who came to Locust Grove during an 1805 visit to Louisville.

Burr had served one term as Thomas Jefferson's vice president from 1801-1805. While running for Governor of New York in 1804, Burr took umbrage at remarks by long-time political rival Alexander Hamilton and challenged him to a duel — killing Hamilton in what is arguably the most famous American duel in history.

After leaving the vice-presidency, Burr began traveling to the "West," and joined in the planning for a canal in Indiana around the Falls of the Ohio.

While on his western travels, Burr was rumored to be plotting to seize Mexico from the Spanish, pull the Western states out of the United States, and create a great empire of his own. He was arrested for treason in 1807. Though he was acquitted, he never recovered from the scandal.

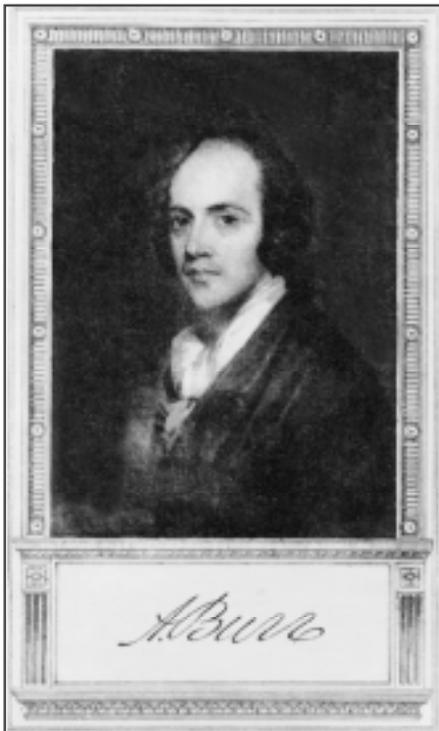


Image from the Prints and Photographs Division, Library of Congress.

JOHN JAMES AUDUBON

Wednesday, October 3

Nathalie Andrews, executive director of the Portland Museum, shares stories about John James Audubon's time in Louisville. Audubon was a good friend of the Croghan family and often visited Locust Grove, even mentioning the family in his work, *The Birds of America*. The Portland Museum recently hosted an exhibit of artwork entitled, "If Not Audubon, Who?"



Image from www.audubon.org.

STEPHEN BISHOP

Wednesday, November 7

Joy Medley Lyons brings us information about Stephen Bishop, the famous cave explorer of the Mammoth Cave area. Bishop was a slave owned by Dr. John Croghan, oldest son of William and Lucy Croghan. Bishop visited Locust Grove and drew his famous map of the Mammoth Cave system here. Ms. Lyons, chief of programs at Mammoth Cave National Park, has a new book, *Making Their Mark: The Signature of Slavery at Mammoth Cave*, and has done considerable research about the slaves who worked at the cave.

LOUISVILLE DULCIMER SOCIETY'S HOLIDAY CONCERT

Wednesday, December 5

The Louisville Dulcimer Society members come to Locust Grove every December. They bring with them joyously toe-tapping traditional holiday music played on Kentucky's official state instrument (the lap or mountain dulcimer) and other folk instruments. It's a great way to kick off the holiday season and to conclude another successful lecture series.



Be sure to check our website —
www.locustgrove.org
for the the most up-to-date information
on Locust Grove's exciting events.

Historic Locust Grove
CALENDAR

TAT & CHAT

Third Saturdays – August 18, September 15, October 20
11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

New tatters and experienced ones — all are invited to our new “tat and chat” sessions! Bring your own projects to work on, and perhaps you’ll pick up some new ideas. These sessions are held the third Saturday of each month. Join us!

FALL TATTING CLASSES

Four Saturdays —
September 8, 22, 29, and October 6
11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Learn the traditional art of tatting from **Cindy Smaldone**. Tatting — the art of making durable lace through knot work and looping using a small shuttle — became popular in the 19th century. Cindy, who has been tatting since she was a child, will show you basic beginner tatting over the course of four Saturdays. You’ll learn to tat the two basic knots, and to form picots or loops. Class size is limited to *four people* so that students receive personal attention. Cost: \$30 per session.

ANTIQUES APPRAISAL DAY

Sunday, September 23
1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
In the Auditorium

If you didn’t get a ticket to the *Antiques Roadshow*, here’s your chance to get your treasures appraised. **Scott F. Nussbaum**, nationally known antiquarian and certified appraiser, will give appraisals of any antique and vintage items that you bring in.



The entire fee goes to support Locust Grove — \$8 per item, four items for \$25, paid at the door.

All participants in Antiques Appraisal Day will receive a discount on Fall Antiques Market tickets, which will be held the following Sunday.



FALL ANTIQUES MARKET

Sunday, September 30
10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Professional dealers from the South and Midwest display their wares on the lawn at Historic Locust Grove. In addition to American country antiques, the show features formal furniture, jewelry, silver, and vintage wares. Admission is \$6 for adults, \$3 for children 6-12, free for kids 5 and under, and includes tours of the historic house. Concessions are available. Proceeds support the continued operation and preservation of Historic Locust Grove.



BEGINNING DULCIMER WORKSHOP

Saturday, October 6
9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Popular dulcimer expert **Maureen Sellers** shows students the basics of playing the mountain dulcimer. Topics include beginner-level basic strum, tune, and mnemonics to help students painlessly learn the rudiments of timing. No musical background is required. Maureen can provide loaner instruments with advance notice.



Maureen, a well-known performer with a gentle teaching style, has taught and performed on the dulcimer in more than 16 states for many years. Cost — \$35 per student. Please bring a sack lunch.

18TH CENTURY MARKET FAIR

Saturday, October 27, and Sunday, October 28
10:00 a.m. to 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, copperware, and candles — great for today’s living, too! Visit the tavern or enjoy hearty fare and sweets typical of the late 1700s. Watch out for skirmishes between these forces, and get a tour of the American, British, and Native American encampments from some of the reenactors.



Admission (which includes a tour of Locust Grove) is good for both days — \$6 for adults, \$3 for seniors over 62 and children aged 6 to 12, and free for children 5 and under.

New In The Store

Jennifer Jansen,
Visitors Center Manager

Locust Grove's Museum Store has some great new books — including two by local authors.

Local historian and Locust Grove volunteer Lynn Renau's book *So Close From Home: The Legacy of Brownsboro Road* is on sale

exclusively at our museum store. She delves into the lives of the early settlers in our area,

including the Clarks, Croghans, Taylors, and Herrs, and reveals fascinating new information.

Postcards From William is a delightful children's book by long-time Louisville educator Betty Stokes. It chronicles the Lewis and Clark expedition in charmingly illustrated postcards from William Clark to his older brother George Rogers Clark over the course of the journey.

We also have some lovely new volumes on the decorative arts and furniture of early America.

The George Washington Collection, American Federal Furniture and Decorative Arts from the Watson Collection, and the journal *American Furniture 2006* describe many fine pieces of historic furniture.

Josephine and the Arts of the Empire is a lovely book about Empress Josephine and her influence on architecture, art, and fashion of the early 1800s. *Toile and Mourning Art and Jewelry* explore the history of those facets of decorative arts.

Clay Lancaster's *Kentucky and Where We Lived* is full of wonderful photographs documenting historic buildings and architectural details.

We'd love to see you soon!

Many Thanks To Our Recent 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.

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Lynn Renau

In Memory of Anne W. Tuley
Thomas S. Tuley Jr.

In Memory of Westwind Piper
Downey M. Gray III

He was no show dog
Failed obedience school
Truly best bad boy

King of Locust Grove
Commander of River Wood
He always came home

— Downey M. Gray III

Correction

James & Diane Stuckert
(Incorrect spelling in Spring 2007 issue.
Our apologies.)

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We now accept donations online through the secure servers at **Network for Good**.

Go to www.locustgrove.org, click on "Participate" and then click on "Donate." Go to the "Donate Now" box on that page and you'll be sent directly to a secure page for Locust Grove.

You can determine the amount you'd like to give and even set up monthly automatic payments, if you'd like. You may designate what the gift is for and if it is in memory or in honor of someone.

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If the donation is in honor or in memory of a person, please include where and to whom you would like us to acknowledge your donation. Send your check and note to:

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But, for Locust Grove to get credit, you must enter through the link posted on our 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 the store page. Unless you choose to register at the site, your donation is anonymous. It costs you nothing. And it's great for Locust Grove!



Friends of Locust Grove

Enrollment/Renewal – April 1, through June 30, 2007

Our "Friends of Locust Grove" membership program began in January 2002. We now have more than 400 individual and family members.

A hearty "thank you" to all of these people who joined or renewed their memberships from April 1, through June 30, 2007, and to all of our longtime Friends of Locust Grove!

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To Become a Friend

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.

Remember:
"Friends of Locust Grove" always receive a 10% discount at the Museum Store!

Did You Know?

Have you noticed the numbers on some of the doors in the house?



You can see them only if you know just where to look, preferably in the raking light of the late afternoon sun.

Look closely at the outside surface of the hall doors on the third floor. There you'll see the numbers — beautifully lettered, probably in chalk.

On the northwest room (the "Girls' Room") is the number 11, and on the "Weaving Room" door, the numeral "12."

We used to think that the numbers represented a period when the house was used as a school. But we now believe that these markings, meant to be temporary, were written on the doors by the executors of John Croghan's estate in 1849.

In marking the house's contents for sale at auction, they labeled all 12 rooms of the house, first to third floor. The existing estate inventory describes the contents of each of the 12 rooms before the sale, as they were at the moment in time when John, the last surviving member of his generation of Croghans, passed away.

On the lower floors, the temporary numerals were understandably washed away by later owners.

But on the top floor, often used for storage, some numbers remain. Eventually the chalk became permanent and the numerals remain where you can see them today.

And now you know.

At HLG's Camps — Great Fun in the Summertime!



Woodworking Campers created three projects — a bluebird house, a monk's bench (with tall legs), and a candle stand. They learned about how the tools in Locust Grove's wood shop were used, and even had their projects branded with the special burn seal of The Grove.

They showed great stamina by finishing all these projects in just five sessions.



Pioneer Campers explored what life was like on an early Kentucky farm. They experienced the chores



of the times, attended a school lesson, baked apple crisp on the hearth — and made bonnets and wigs out of paper bags!



With the guidance of professional artist **Annette Cable**, the Pioneer Campers created nature journals, drawing the trees and flowers that grow around Locust Grove. Students met reenactors and learned about the things soldiers carried with them in the field, and how the local Native Americans used the herbs that grew around them. They played pioneer games — had sack races and stilt races, and even got some of our graces (hoops that you toss with sticks) stuck up on the cabin roof!