

HISTORIC LOCUST GROVE GROVE GAZETTE



A Week With Michael Twitty — Insightful, Fascinating, and Absolutely Delicious

“We’ve put the dead sheep on ice. Where’s the saw?” is probably a question you rarely have uttered yourself . . . but we embraced the unusual during culinary historian **Michael Twitty**’s week-long residency at Locust Grove in late May.

Michael Twitty is an authority on African American foodways and their influence on American cuisine, particularly in the South. His book, *The Cooking Gene*, recently won two James Beard awards for food writing.

His book and his blog *Afroculinaria* are deeply researched in several ways — through written documentation, oral tradition, and practical experimentation. He grows heirloom varieties or works with farmers to grow them. He then cooks and serves the food according to traditional ways.

Beyond the food itself, Twitty honors the lives of “the ancestors” by cooking in the garb and persona of the enslaved and free black cooks of early America. He’s researched and explored their lives and contributions to what we now take for granted as simply American food.

“When I cook on a plantation, before I do anything else, I put on the representative clothes,” Twitty says. “They call this a costume but it is my transformative historical drag; my makeup is a dusting of pot rust, red clay, and the ghost smells of meals past.”

During his time at Locust Grove, Twitty gave two presentations about cooking in Africa and America for our staff and volunteers, along with invited guests from other local historic sites. He reflected on the ways that the lives of the enslaved in places like Locust Grove are presented to the public.

He’s spent time at plantations and farms in the south, cooking and talking. He’s seen the many ways that slavery is presented and how it is perceived. “Traditionally, the plantation is a place where architecture and windows and wallpaper are lauded — but the bodies who put them up are not,” Twitty says.

In *The Cooking Gene*, Twitty takes readers on a “journey through African American culinary history in the Old South” as he traces his ancestry — both black and white — through food. He did the same for those fortunate enough to participate in the events at Locust Grove that week in May.

Twitty — assisted by several Locust Grove volunteers — cooked in our hearth kitchen and was filmed by a popular TV travel show while doing so. (We’re sworn to secrecy on the details — but when the show airs, we’ll reveal all on our website: www.locustgrove.org.)

On Tuesday evening, a crowd of southern food fans delighted in his hearth supper and talk. They feasted on sautéed greens, kush (a delicious cornbread dish), Country Captain (a flavorful chicken dish with influences from Caribbean ancestors), rice, sweet potato pie, all washed down with sweet tea.

But the show-stopper was the sheep roast on Thursday. Volunteers dug a 4-foot by 6-foot pit near the wood shop, filled the bottom with firewood, and placed saplings as slats over the top. The sheep was sourced from the nearby organic Rootbound Farm.

“All day long, Michael mop-basted the meat in the cooking tradition he learned in Senegal,” says **Brian Cushing**, Locust Grove’s program director. “He has established a clear correlation between

the barbecue styles in Senegal and those in Kentucky. It was a long, hot, smoky, fascinating day.”

The barbecued sheep was the centerpiece of Thursday evening’s food experience, with accompaniments of rice, greens, and a sweet potato salad. “That delicious salad clearly was a hit because there was not a single morsel left,” declares Cushing.

The week ended with a talk by Twitty about the central themes of his work to an appreciative audience, who also were surprised to be served a full meal afterwards — all the delicious leftovers from a generous week of cooking.

Twitty Week was hot, a bit chaotic, aromatic, mouth-watering, smoky, and insightful — and one of the most meaningful programs we’ve ever experienced at Locust Grove.

Kudos to ‘Twitty Week’ Volunteers

Essential to the week’s success are the many Locust Grove volunteers who helped Twitty bake, cook, dish up, and deliver the foods that the guests devoured. The ones not pictured in the photo include: **Heather, Jason, Jocelyn, and Noah Hiner; Marlan Ingram; Amy Liebert; Irene Rawlings; Rosalind Scott; Diane Statler; Keith, Kelly, and Tom Stevenson; Lori Stahlgren; Sarah Sutherland; Jeannie Vezeau; and Paula Wolf**. Thank you.



With Michael Twitty are intrepid volunteers (from the left) **Judy Chang, Sharron Hilbrecht, intern Sidney Edwards, and Jane Sterner**.

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Marie-Joseph Paul Yves Roch Gilbert du Motier, Marquis de Lafayette, was usually known as just “Lafayette.”

So much simpler that way. He was such an extraordinary figure in American history that he seems almost fictional. How and why could one man have made such a difference, across the wide Atlantic from his home in Auvergne in rural France?

Born into a very wealthy aristocratic family and orphaned at a young age, he married young and became a father young. And — still in his teens — he became so enthralled by the rebellion in Britain’s American colonies that he defied his family, abandoned wife and child, and jumped ship for the Revolution.

Begging the Continental Congress and its military leader for a role in the fight, he was wounded at Brandywine, wintered at Valley Forge (spending time with Washington, Hamilton, and Major William Croghan), before realizing that his best role was as a negotiator of French military and financial support for the rebels.

France, always England’s staunchest enemy, responded with “guns, and ships, and so the balance shifts.” (I’m quoting the musical *Hamilton* here). With the strong fleet of France’s Count Rochambeau in the Chesapeake, British forces at Yorktown didn’t stand a chance. The dual strike on British barricades by the Continentals — led by Hamilton and Lafayette — broke the siege and led to the surrender at Yorktown. Major Croghan, on parole, watched and huzzah’d from the sidelines.

Returning home to France, Lafayette worked with Thomas Jefferson to reduce America’s debts to France and to encourage the abolition of slavery. An early leader of the French Revolution, inspired by Jeffersonian principles, Lafayette was unable to unite France’s murderous factions and spent years in prison in Austria. Released, he returned to public service.

In 1824–25, he embarked on a triumphal victory lap of all of the (then) 24 United States, greeted with cheering crowds of people, parades, songs in his honor, lavish banquets, and all the accolades of a hero. Cities, towns, streets, and parks were named for him — from Lafayette Square across from the White House to towns from Louisiana to Indiana and beyond.

In Louisville in May 1825, he intended to visit the widow of his compatriot William Croghan, Lucy Croghan, at Locust Grove. John Croghan, their eldest son, prepared to be Lafayette’s host. Unfortunately Lafayette had to cancel their engagement and never came to Locust Grove. (See “*Collections*” story on the next page.)

However, in September 2018, we plan to keep that engagement on Lafayette’s behalf. We’ve planned the dinner that *might* have been served nearly 200 years ago — a candlelight banquet in the style of 1825 to be celebrated under a tent in the garden allée north of the historic house.

We invite you to join us in honor of the Marquis de Lafayette and his hosts, the Croghans, at a dinner with **Sarah Vowell**, author of *Lafayette in the Somewhat United States*, on Friday, September 21. This event follows a conversation with Vowell about Lafayette and American history, ticketed separately, earlier in the evening. (See the details in the article on the back cover.)

In the spirit of Lafayette — “*Vive La France, vive Les États Unis, et vive la Révolution!*”



A commemorative banner from Lafayette’s “victory lap” tour of the U. S. in 1824-25.

Spirit Award Winner: Irene Rawlings



After retiring from two careers — 23 years in the Army, active and reserve, and more than 40 years as a registered dietician for hospitals and nursing homes — **Irene Rawlings** looked to volunteering at Locust Grove to keep her busy. No problem there.



“I’d been attending the Wednesday lectures for years, whenever I was off duty,” Irene says. “And before I retired, I also began helping at weekend events — grilling, admissions, even clean up. I enjoy being at Locust Grove so much that I usually volunteer for nearly everything!” she laughs.

Upon retirement, she trained as a docent to give tours and learned the process of turning wool and flax into yarn so she could demonstrate spinning for school groups. Her love of books led her to Locust Grove’s Used Book Sales, where she sorts books and helps at all the sales. She also served on the Volunteer Steering Committee for two years.

“Irene’s dedication to our volunteers led her to creating the ‘George Awards’ which we handed out at the Volunteer Appreciation party for several years,” says **Mary Beth Williams**, curator of collections and education. “She also created our Volunteer Accomplishments binder as a way to fully recognize the myriad of ways our volunteers have contributed over the years.”

Irene, on the board of Sustainable Agriculture of Louisville for 12 years, saw an opportunity to teach about sustainability when she joined the Gardener’s Fair committee. “I encouraged the addition of local farmers and craftspeople to our line-up of vendors and brought in food trucks for food service during the fair,” she says.

Irene spent her childhood 15 miles outside of Washington, D. C., where her family had a farm with an orchard, chickens, and a goat. “As an immigrant from Greece, my grandfather had a produce market in D. C.,” she adds.

Growing up in the D. C. area, she and her family often visited historic sites. “They were right there!” she laughs. She’s lived in eight states over the years and has always loved history, “especially of the place where I am living,” Irene says.

It’s the history of those who lived and worked at Locust Grove that continues to intrigue Irene. “After doing a docent gig, I enjoy having lunch at a picnic table under the trees and muse about how life was in the early 1800s,” she says. “Locust Grove is a true Kentucky treasure.”

As is Irene Rawlings. “We thank Irene for her continuing dedication to both Locust Grove and to our volunteers,” adds Mary Beth.



Engraving in Farm Office Celebrates Croghan’s Ties to Lafayette

— **Mary Beth Williams**,
Curator of Collections & Education

On his grand tour in 1824–25, the Marquis de Lafayette visited all 24 states, stopping in Louisville in 1825. Lucy Croghan was able to see this acclaimed figure in person, and he *almost* visited Locust Grove, as Lucy’s eldest son John Croghan wrote to his brother-in-law, T. S. Jesup, in May 1825:

“You will perceive through the medium of the public print our reception of LaFayette. It was creditable to our town and gratifying to our illustrious guest. The ladies of the town & country generally waited on him and among them were Aunt Anderson & my Mother. I regret that he had not time to visit Locust Grove, in as much as he promised to do so, but so limited was his stay, & so worried was he by parades & civilities that it seemed impossible.”

Although Lafayette’s busy schedule prevented him from being received at Locust Grove, he still is remembered here today. In the Farm Office of the museum house hangs a print of the Marquis de Lafayette — fittingly opposite a print of General Washington.

The mezzotint engraving by Philibert-Louis Debucourt depicts a full-length portrait of Lafayette standing next to his horse; and seen in the background is a large formation of troops on a parade ground.

A museum purchase from 1982, this print underscores the significant role Lafayette played in the American Revolution, in which both George Rogers Clark and William Croghan fought.

Croghan, who greatly admired Lafayette, would certainly have been acquainted with him as both men served at the Battle of Brandywine and during the Valley Forge winter.

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. Lectures begin at 1:15 p.m., with desserts and beverages served beforehand. Cost — \$6, or \$4 for members.

Kentucky and the Value of History

SEPT 5 WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5 — 1:15 PM

History — and historic sites — are important to Kentucky's identity and economy. **Stuart Sanders**, the Kentucky Historical Society's History Advocate, will tell us how museums, communities, and businesses are using history to craft solutions for the challenges that we face today. Sanders will discuss how historic sites are tackling modern issues, including the legalization of hemp, sustainable living, racial equality, and more.



Kentucky's Audubon: The Life and Work of John James Audubon in Kentucky

OCT 3 WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 3 — 1:15 PM

John James Audubon's Kentucky years had a profound impact on his family and his work as an artist-naturalist. **Jennifer Spence**, curator of the John James Audubon Museum in Henderson, Ky., will use examples from her museum's collection as a lens for understanding America's first great artist. Audubon began his married life in Kentucky, where his four children were born. And it was in Kentucky where he made many of the drawings for his life's work, *Birds of America*.



'Up the Valley, Thru the Gap —' The Migration of Kentucky Riflesmiths

NOV 7 WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 7 — 1:15 PM

You may have seen him portraying frontiersman Simon Kenton and Gen. George Rogers Clark for Kentucky Chautauqua. But on this visit to Locust Grove, **Mel Hankla** will focus on the life and times of Michael Humble — an armorer with Gen. George Rogers Clark. (An armorer makes or repairs firearms.) By 1779, Humble had a gunshop on the corner of 12th and Main in Louisville.

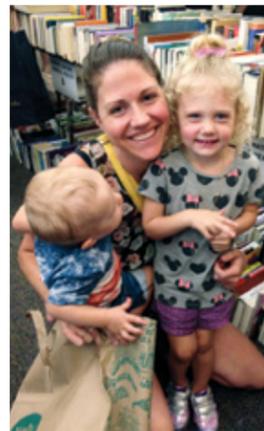


A preeminent longrifle historian and craftsman, Hankla builds traditional longrifles. He also collects antique longrifles and powder horns and will bring some for you to see at the lecture.

Big August Used Book Sale

AUG 16-19 MEMBERS-ONLY PREVIEW THURSDAY, AUGUST 16, 5 PM — 7:30 PM

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FRIDAY, AUGUST 17, 10 AM — 7 PM SATURDAY & SUNDAY, AUGUST 18 & 19, 10 AM — 4:30 PM



"There are perhaps no days of our childhood we lived so fully as those we spent with a favorite book." — Marcel Proust

There are sure to be books destined to become "favorites" among the more than 23,000 books at Locust Grove's big August Used Book Sale. All books are organized into more than 30 categories, including children's, history, art, fiction, mystery, inspiration, cooking, gardening, and so much more. Most books are \$1 for paperbacks, \$2 for hardbacks. Special books are priced individually — and all at bargain prices.

Nearly all of these books have been donated by readers across the region, with tax donation forms available. All proceeds from our book sales support Locust Grove's continued educational and preservation projects.

SUMMER THURSDAYS AT LOCUST GROVE

This series features singers from Kentucky Opera celebrating Locust Grove's milestones through song. Performers will be on the covered porch; audience members should bring their own chairs and blankets. Food and drink will be available starting at 6 p.m.; performance starts at 6:30 p.m. Tickets \$16, \$14 for members.

Locust Grove and Opera — A Musical Timeline

AUG 30 THURSDAY, AUGUST 30 — 6:30 PM

1784: William Croghan is in Louisville. Mozart has become a Freemason in Austria — choosing ideals that not only influenced the American founding fathers, but would later imbed themselves in his acclaimed opera, *The Magic Flute*.

1792: William and Lucy Croghan are building Locust Grove. Mozart premieres *The Magic Flute* and Italian Gioachino Rossini is born in Italy, later to become an opera legend.

1878: Riverboat captain James Paul buys Locust Grove. Productions of Gilbert and Sullivan's *H.M.S. Pinafore* premiere in the states.

1964: A restored Locust Grove opens; Kentucky Opera is producing Bizet's *Carmen*, Mozart's *Così fan Tutte*, and Verdi's *Rigoletto*.



EMILIE STRONG SMITH CHAMBER MUSIC SERIES

A Baroque Violinist's Journey Through Europe

SEPT 16 SUNDAY, SEPT. 16, 2018 — 5 PM

On September 16, Locust Grove kicks off its 35th season of the Emilie Strong Smith Chamber Music Series — its "Coral Jubilee."

This venerable series offers concertgoers a unique opportunity to delight in music that the Clarks and Croghans would have heard in the room where they most likely would have enjoyed it — the second-floor Great Parlor of the historic house.

In this concert, you'll enjoy two exciting young artists. Baroque violinist **Alice Cullin-Ellison** is joined by harpsichordist **John Austin Clark** as they take a baroque violinist's journey through Europe. The concert will feature works by Bach, Couperin, and Geminiani.

Refreshments at 5:00 p.m., with the concerts beginning at 5:30 p.m. Individual concerts are \$20 each. We also offer season subscriptions — Patron, \$200; Supporter, \$100; and Subscriber, \$70. To purchase season subscriptions, please call Locust Grove at (502) 897-9845.

For dates and titles of the 2018-2019 series, see "Concerts" box on page 6.

Lafayette in Louisville —An Evening with Sarah Vowell

SEPT 21 FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, CONVERSATION — 6 PM 1825-STYLE GRAND DINNER — 8 PM (See back cover for details)

Book, Prints, Paper, and Art Sale

SEPT 29 & 30 SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 10 AM—4:30 PM (Free admission) SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 10 AM—4:30 PM (With \$8 admission to Antiques Market)

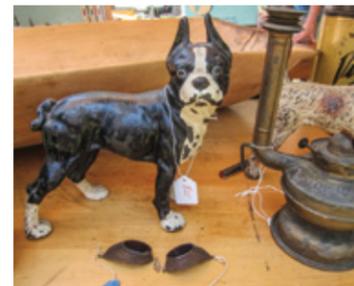
This special show and sale includes dealers in antiquarian, out-of-print, remaindered, fine used, and other special books — at all prices and in all categories. You'll find books about collecting, art, decorative arts, architecture, design, and much more.



Fall Antiques Market

SEPT 30 SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 10 AM—4:30 PM

From mahogany breakfronts to ornate sterling teapots . . . from children's toys to china teacups . . . from the 18th century to mid-20th-century modern — the Fall Antiques Market has something for all tastes and every budget. Dozens of individual dealers from around the region will offer fine and country furniture, textiles, jewelry, ephemera, silver, and much more. Proceeds support the continued operation and preservation of Locust Grove. Food and drink will be available for purchase. Admission: \$8 adults; free for ages 12 and under.



Frankenstein: A Reading Performance

OCT 23 TUESDAY, OCTOBER 23,

DOORS OPEN AT 6, PERFORMANCE AT 7 Just in time for Halloween, **Kentucky Shakespeare** arrives in the Great Parlor in the historic home bringing

Frankenstein to life. Well, actually, the actors will bring the classic story to life in a reading performance by R.N. Sandberg, an American playwright. Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley wrote and published *Frankenstein* during the Croghan's occupancy of Locust Grove — making this a perfect melding of worlds to mark the season. Light refreshments will be provided.

Tickets are \$20, or \$15 for Locust Grove members. Light refreshments will be served, one intermission. Prepaid reservations are required due to space limitations. Call (502) 897-9845 to reserve.



Return to 1778 at the 18th Century Market Fair

OCT 27 & 28 SATURDAY & SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27 & 28, 10 AM — 4:30 PM EACH DAY



It's Philadelphia, 1778. George Rogers Clark (**Matt Douthitt**) will be in the camp with his newly formed Illinois Regiment. They'll be joined by British Dragoons and Marines, Scottish Highlanders, and Hessians — along with their wives and children. New this year is a special exhibit of antique Kentucky rifles by **Mel Hankla**. And **Marlan Ingram**, who portrays a manumitted (freed) slave circa 1780, will give a talk.

You can visit the camps, talk with reenactors, and watch mock battles for independence. Enjoy singers, puppeteers, Punch & Judy, and a fortune teller. Watch demonstrators doing 18th century tasks and crafts — along with a weaver with her sheep. And as always, you can enjoy delicious period-style foods and drinks. Admission for adults is \$8 and children, \$4.



Historic Locust Grove Board News

We sincerely thank outgoing Board member **Rod Smothers** for his service. Board member **Hunter Louis** has been elected president, replacing **Chris Green**. Board member **Barbie Tafel** becomes secretary, replacing **Mark Gaston**. Both Chris and Mark remain on the Board. And, we extend a warm welcome to these new board members whose terms started on July 1:

Elizabeth Dieruf — A member of the American and Kentucky Bar Associations as well as the Kentucky Society of CPAs, Elizabeth is a lawyer with Mountjoy Chilton Medley. She also has volunteered with the Kentucky Humane Society.

Alex Kepnes — Alex is a Director of Corporate Communications at Humana. He is from Massachusetts and has a strong interest in history, especially Federal and Revolutionary history.

Alan Lodge — A financial specialist, Alan has been an executive with Meta Tax Services and co-founder and CEO of Refund Advantage. Besides expertise as a CPA, he also is adept at information technology.

Gina Wainscott — A gardening enthusiast, Gina has been volunteering to help maintain Locust Grove's gardens. A CPA and Certified Financial Planner, she works for Mountjoy Chilton Medley and is a tax manager in Jeffersonville, Indiana.

New Board President — Hunter Louis

A Louisville native and Locust Grove neighbor, **Hunter Louis** has served on Historic Locust Grove's Board for seven years. Hunter has a Master's Degree in Urban and Regional planning from Pratt Institute in New York City.

For 38 years, Hunter has been a principal in The Louis Partnership, Inc., a firm engaged in land development, construction of townhouses, single-family homes, office buildings, and the renovation of a broad range of facilities, including historic properties.

Louis also has served on the Boards of Trees, Inc., River Fields, and the Memorial Auditorium Commission.



Audrey Pilkington Lifetime Achievement Award Winner — Lynn Swetnam Boone

The Audrey Pilkington Lifetime Achievement Award recognizes volunteers who have offered a lifetime of dedication and support to Locust Grove. Begun in 1998, it was named for **Audrey Pilkington** in 2000 in recognition of her pioneering work and positive energy in nurturing Locust Grove's volunteers.

The Audrey Pilkington Award has been granted 13 times over the past 20 years to volunteers who set an example of constant attention and unflinching enthusiasm for all that Locust Grove does. The latest recipient is **Lynn Swetnam Boone**.



Curator of Collections & Education **Mary Beth Williams** presented the award at the Volunteer Appreciation party in April, describing Lynn's many contributions to Locust Grove for nearly 40 years.

While teaching high school history and humanities at local high schools, Lynn spent summers at Locust Grove, where her mother was a docent. Lynn trained as a docent and led tours.

When she retired in 1997, Lynn was able to give more of her time to the site. Besides leading hundreds of tours, Lynn has portrayed family members during the former Candlelight Tours, worked in the old gift shop, demonstrated spinning for school field trips, and rolled beeswax candles for the Museum Store.

Lynn now is a regularly scheduled docent in addition to helping at special events. She also provides baked goods for the Wednesday lectures and other special events.

"Lynn's claim to Locust Grove fame is the Used Book Sale, which was her passion project," said Mary Beth. "Beginning in March 2005 with just a few tables of books, the book sale has grown into a twice-yearly event plus several smaller sales and has become one of Locust Grove's biggest fundraisers.

"For nearly 40 years, Lynn has dedicated her time and talent to Locust Grove," Mary Beth added. "We are so fortunate that Lynn and her mother became involved here so many years ago."

Upon receiving the award, Lynn said, "Meeting visitors and sharing Locust Grove's role in Kentucky history is one of the best parts of my involvement — along with being a part of this marvelous community. I'm touched, thrilled, and so very honored to get this award."

Previous recipients of the Audrey Pilkington Lifetime Achievement Award are **Emilie Strong Smith, Martin Schmidt, Fred Atkinson, Dorothy Martin, Bob Pilkington, LaMar Gaston, Gwynne Potts, Shirley Dumesnil, Nancy Lee, Preston Thomas, Alberta Baker, and Jeannie Litterst Vezeau**.

Thanks to Our Recent Donors

Donations received from Enrollment/Renewal from April 1 through June 30, 2018

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For people donating \$250 and up to Historic Locust Grove from April 1 through June 30, 2018

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George Kitchen
Mary Kitchen
R. Douglas & Margaret Krawczyk

Friends of Locust Grove

Enrollment/Renewal from April 1 through June 30, 2018

A HEARTY "THANK YOU" TO ALL OF THESE PEOPLE WHO RECENTLY JOINED OR RENEWED THEIR MEMBERSHIPS, AND TO ALL OF OUR LONGTIME FRIENDS OF LOCUST GROVE! IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BECOME A FRIEND, PLEASE GO ONLINE TO WWW.LOCUSTGROVE.ORG, OR CALL US AT (502) 897-9845 FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND DETAILS.

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Diana Zacha
Mr. & Mrs. Guthrie Zaring
Tom Zimmerman

In Memoriam

◀Dottie Wyman▶

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



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



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SATURDAY AND SUNDAY
OCTOBER 27 AND 28,
10 AM — 4:30 PM



[SUMMER 2018]



LAFAYETTE
♦ ♦ IN ♦ ♦
LOUISVILLE
An Evening with
Sarah Vowell

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 21
CONVERSATION 6 PM
1825-STYLE GRAND DINNER 8 PM



Sarah Vowell, New York Times' bestselling author of *Lafayette in the Somewhat United States*, will speak with **Tara Anderson** of Louisville Public Media about everyone's favorite fighting Frenchman, Lafayette, and his connections to American independence.

Lafayette was to dine at Locust Grove in 1825, but had to decline. In September, we'll keep that engagement on Lafayette's behalf.

It starts with a **Conversation** between Sarah Vowell and Tara Anderson, followed by a **Grand Dinner** under a candlelit tent in the allée leading to the historic house. The menu for the dinner is based on recipes from the early years of the 19th century.

For ticket information and details about the program and the dinner, go to www.locustgrove.org/lafayette.

HISTORIC LOCUST GROVE GROVE GAZETTE

www.locustgrove.org