



## TWO SPECIAL CELEBRATIONS FOR LOCUST GROVE'S NEW PAVILION



Board President Chris Chappell, Campaign Chair Kate Boyer, Buildings Committee Chair Hunter Louis, Board Member Margy Thomas, Executive Director Carol Ely

**On April 30th, a jubilant crowd of Locust Grove's donors and friends gathered for a soft opening of its new event pavilion.**

After a decade of planning and fundraising — and a construction period interrupted by the pandemic and unforeseen site issues — the magnificent structure of stone, wood, and steel was the site of a party for those who helped to make it possible.

“We welcomed our design and construction teams and our Board of Directors, along with all of our donors, whose gifts ranged from \$8 to \$1,000,000,” says Executive Director **Carol Ely**. HLG Board President **Chris Chappell**, Capital Campaign Chair **Kate Boyer**, Buildings Committee Chair **Hunter Louis**, and Executive Director **Carol Ely** offered remarks before Board member **Margy Thomas** cut a ceremonial ribbon.

After the ceremony, the crowd of about 100 enjoyed custom period-inspired cocktails mixed by **Brian Cushing** and **Andrea Meriwether** . . . nibbled on charcuterie served in to-go boxes by **Bonny Wise** . . . and listened to Bluegrass music by **Hog Operation**.



Above: A crowd of donors, board members, and Friends of Locust Grove celebrate during the soft opening of the Pavilion on April 30



Top: Kate Boyer and Board Members Jill Cooper and Janet Muller.  
Below: Shirley Dumesnil and Mark Boyer.

Top: Preston Van Winkle and Board Member Andrea Meriwether draw the winner of five collectors' bottles of Pappy Van Winkle bourbons — a raffle that raised \$80,000 for Locust Grove projects.  
Below: Period cocktails expert Brian Cushing

**On July 15th, the Pavilion was dedicated to the entire community with the help of Louisville Metro officials.** After formal remarks, Carol Ely brought out the big scissors so she, Metro Councilwoman **Paula McCraney** (far left), Louisville Metro Mayor **Greg Fisher** (next to Carol), and Metro Councilman **Scott Reed** (far right) could declare that Locust Grove's Pavilion was open for business.

## DIRECTOR'S LETTER – Carol Ely, PH.D.

**Everything changes. We all knew that the post-pandemic world would be different — and now, here we are on a semi-familiar planet.**



Wouldn't you love to have afternoon tea with some sheep? Our partnership with **Ballyhoo Farm and Fiber Emporium** will make it possible — and reinforce the links between the historic Croghan farm and farming in Kentucky today.  
Photo credit: Airbnb-Scotland

Locust Grove is changing too. For years, we had a familiar round of regular events and programs. Now, for many reasons, all of them will be re-built, re-imagined, re-funded, developed by new staff members and friends, and otherwise reworked for this coming year and beyond. We have the opportunity to engage with different event partners, to add new programming in different locations, and to say goodbye to events that have had their day.

You may notice that we haven't posted a full year of events on our website, and that the Gazette doesn't project what's coming as far ahead as we once did. That's because we aren't just repeating the past, we are re-inventing as we go — or "building the airplane as we fly it." We'll let you know about the details as we craft the updated descriptions and confirm our sponsors and partners.

As you may know, the former Jane Austen Festival in July is gone. We also are letting go of the Spring Encampment/18th Century Thunder event to clear April's calendar for new events and to focus our energies on October's 18th Century Market Fair.

The Chamber Music series will re-launch in the open-air Pavilion in October, and then move to the charming but close quarters of the historic house when possible.

Our "On the Farm" series will be paired with existing events, bringing the skills of our craft

demonstrators, farmers, and food partners to the Gardeners' Fair ("Spring"), Independence Day ("Summer"), and the former Christmastide event ("Winter"). A new "Fall on the Farm" is planned in conjunction with the 18th Century Market Fair in late October.

Some familiar events will expand into new spaces, including our popular Book Sale, with a new layout and more room in the auditorium. And by next year, some Antiques Market dealers could have booths in the Pavilion.

And completely new programs are in the works. These include digital content and festival programs around historic food and spirits... women's history events . . . a focus on the historic landscape . . . workshops on trades and artisanry . . . themed teas ("Tea with Sheep" is coming soon!) . . . and an expanded roster of performers and notable guest speakers. All of this innovation will take more than just a year, but we're heading in an exciting direction.

And besides our own programs and wedding rentals, the Pavilion will be open to corporate and community groups for gatherings and performances and to area cultural organizations presenting public events in partnership with Locust Grove and open to our audiences — that's you!

Change is good!

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## Ethical Interpretation Workshop:

# EVALUATING INTENTIONS & IMPACT AT LOCUST GROVE

In the early spring of 2022, Locust Grove Director of Interpretation **Kaitlyn Tisdale** was selected for the National Museum of African American History & Culture's Ethical Interpretation Workshop. It is a professional fellowship program providing intensive education and technical training for museum professionals working in interpretive theory and ethical practice.

Kaitlyn was one of 14 out of more than 200 people who applied for the workshop. "It was an honor to be selected," she says. "I was thrilled that Locust Grove would be recognized for its actions taken to push for a more equitable and ethical interpretation of the history of the site."

In her position, Kaitlyn works directly with the histories taught at Locust Grove, including the stories of the individuals enslaved on the property — whose lives were unknown, hidden, or inaccurately represented throughout decades of tourism at the historic site.

"Workshop participants could take a thorough look at how our sites currently interpret slavery and oppression," says Kaitlyn. "We focused on finding areas where we're doing well, highlighting ways in which we can improve, and reinforcing the need for partnerships in our local community."

The participants were equipped with tools and techniques to develop culturally responsive interpretation. "This workshop has been invaluable for helping us create ways to train our staff and docents to have challenging discussions of the history of our site in a safe and sustainable way."

The workshop began in late May with a one-week virtual component including 35 hours of virtual sessions, peer-to-peer coaching, and community-building activities. In addition to the virtual learning, there was quite a bit of studying.

"I thought the days of homework were done for me," laughs Kaitlyn; "but the amount of required reading for the learning sessions certainly reminded me of graduate school."

The in-person portion of the fellowship took place from June 8–11 in Washington D.C. While there, participants visited the Museum of African American History & Culture, the National



Museum of the American Indian, Gadsby's Tavern in Old Town Alexandria, and Woodlawn Plantation.

"We analyzed the current interpretation of African American history and culture," explains Kaitlyn. "We discussed the ways our work can provoke thought, engage audiences of all ages and backgrounds, and foster discussions that can continue after the workshop."

Each evening, Kaitlyn worked in her hotel room to hone her final presentation to the fellowship

facilitators — four of the most prominent leaders in museum interpretive theory.

Kaitlyn's final presentation outlined her current ethical interpretative project for Locust Grove — a tour centered on the history of enslavement at Locust Grove and Mammoth Cave called *Imprinted Legacies: Slavery at Locust Grove*.

Her three main goals are simple — find balance, create meaningful connections, and provoke thought. With this new tour, Kaitlyn hopes to balance both the triumphs and the tragedies experienced by the enslaved community at Locust Grove.

"We'll stand in the spaces inhabited by members of the enslaved community, such as the hearth kitchen and Louisa's House," says Kaitlyn. "I want to help guests connect on a deeper level to the history around them. We'll encourage meaningful conversations about all aspects of the lives of the enslaved community, and not just the labor they did."

"We will discuss the skills and craftsmanship they had and the ways they passed them down from generation to generation; the things they celebrated; the ways they found joy and the ways they resisted; the families they made and the families they forged."

"The lives of African Americans at Locust Grove were complex, multifaceted, and nuanced," she adds. "Their community created a vibrant culture of resilience, strength, and courage passed down from generation to generation. Only by acknowledging and sharing the whole truth of our site's history can we fully connect with our community. Ethical interpretation is the key to moving Locust Grove forward in the future."

# WELCOME HOME, CLARE EGAN!

*“This feels less like a new job and more like coming home”*

**Clare Egan** is Locust Grove’s new Program and Marketing Coordinator. A Louisville native, she grew up in the Locust Grove First Person Interpreter Program, playing the roles of Eliza Croghan and Eliza Cosby over the course of 10 years. She also served on the State Executive Board of the Kentucky Junior Historical Society and met with her local chapter at Locust Grove several times a month.



Clare as Eliza Croghan, with Jamie Eiler as Eliza’s uncle Owen Gwathmey in 2008.

Executive Director **Carol Ely** says, “It’s great to have someone in this communications position who already knows Locust Grove from the inside out. We’re looking forward to Clare’s ideas and energy as we work to re-imagine our programs for new audiences and new facilities.”

Clare graduated from the University of Kentucky in December of 2020 with a B.A. in Print and Multimedia Journalism and a Minor in Information Communication Technologies.

While at UK, she was an active member of Alpha Delta Pi sorority and sat on multiple committees. She became skilled at leadership and event management during her time as a



Panhellenic Delegate and a volunteer for Ronald McDonald House Charities. Clare also was an Ambassador for UK’s College of Communication and Information, traveling to college recruitment events as well as writing for the student newspaper, *The Kentucky Kernel*.

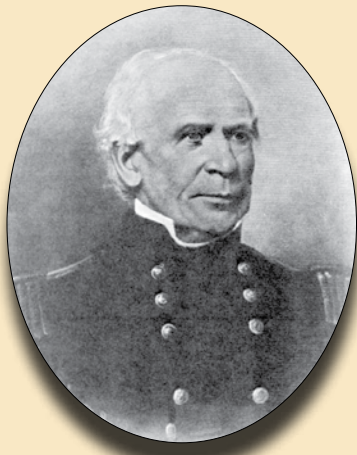
While in college, Clare interned for Barstool Sports, helping to create new apparel

designs, launching several new brands within the company, and hosting a podcast about the college dating scene. Prior to joining the team at Locust Grove, Clare was doing freelance work in the journalism field and ran social media for Barstool.

In her free time, Clare can be found reading, testing out new recipes, playing with her feisty cat, Elliot, and keeping up with all things related to pop culture.

“I’m so excited to be planning the events at Locust Grove — which I attended as I was growing up,” Clare says. “It’s a full circle moment!”

# HIDDEN GEMS AT THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS



Thomas Sidney Jesup (1788-1860) was a U.S. Army officer, Quartermaster General of the Army, and husband of the Croghan’s elder daughter, Ann. The Library of Congress has a collection of his papers currently housed in the Manuscript Room. This includes more than 6,000 items in 25 boxes.

These records include general correspondence, daily account books, military reports, family documents, maps, and more. While Director of Interpretation **Kaitlyn Tisdale** was in Washington D.C. for her Ethical Interpretation Workshop, she was able to briefly visit the Manuscript Room and access just a few of the many boxes housed within.

In just those few boxes, Kaitlyn discovered that Locust Grove has barely scratched the surface of the research on Thomas Jesup, Ann Croghan, Dr. John Croghan, and many more of the Croghan family members — and perhaps the men, women, and children they enslaved as well.

In this collection, there are dozens of account books that, while Kaitlyn was not able to view them, she realized they may contain very valuable information about the Croghan-Jesup household, their travels to and from Locust Grove, and much more.

Other interesting discoveries in this collection include letters of Dr. John Croghan, Col. George Croghan and his wife Serena, and their brother-in-law Thomas Jesup. Some inquire about business matters, some military, some financial — all with brand new glimpses into the inner workings of the Croghan family and General Jesup.

To take a closer look at the expanse of the collection, Kaitlyn and researcher **Heather Hiner** will travel to Washington, D.C., to further explore this collection and the exciting new details it may hold for Locust Grove!



# DISCOVERING 'SAM CROGHAN'

*Volunteer Heather Hiner has spent close to 3,000 hours researching the people enslaved by the Croghan family. Early in her research, she found a newspaper story from 1855 that mentioned a free Black man named Sam Croghan. Based on his name, she thought there was a strong possibility that he had been enslaved at Locust Grove.*

*However, she'd never come across Sam in any of the family records. In addition, the people enslaved by*

*Dr. Croghan weren't emancipated until 1856, the year after the article was written. This made Sam a bit of a mystery.*

*Occasional searches over the past six years did not reveal a link between Sam and the Croghan family. But earlier this year, as new records have been digitized, she made a thrilling discovery. A newspaper article, as well as an account book, finally linked Sam to Charles Croghan and then to Dr. John Croghan.*

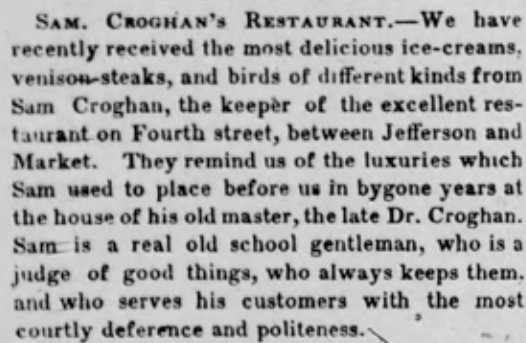
## Here's Sam's story, as Heather told it to a Locust Grove Lecture audience this past June

This news article from *The Louisville Daily Courier* on January 4, 1855, reports on "Sam Croghan, the keeper of the excellent restaurant on Fourth Street between Jefferson and Market." It goes on to say Sam's food reminds the writer "of the luxuries which Sam used to place before us . . . at the house of his old master, the late Dr. Croghan."

Now that I had proof that Sam Croghan, who owned a restaurant in downtown Louisville, had been enslaved at Locust Grove, I focused my research efforts more directly on him. I pored through old newspapers and other records and was thrilled to find mention after mention of Sam.

He moved around quite a bit, but always worked as a cook or opened a restaurant of his own. He was a cook at the Galt House, traveled the rivers working as a cook on steamships, and served as a cook on two Union ships during the Civil War. And everywhere he lived, he opened a restaurant, often specializing in oysters, a favorite of Dr. Croghan.

Although it's early in my research on Sam, I'm already getting a good grasp of what his life looked like, post emancipation. After the Civil War, he moved to Memphis, Tenn.



SAM. CROGHAN'S RESTAURANT.—We have recently received the most delicious ice-creams, venison-steaks, and birds of different kinds from Sam Croghan, the keeper of the excellent restaurant on Fourth street, between Jefferson and Market. They remind us of the luxuries which Sam used to place before us in bygone years at the house of his old master, the late Dr. Croghan. Sam is a real old school gentleman, who is a judge of good things, who always keeps them, and who serves his customers with the most courtly deference and politeness.

For a Black man, it was a turbulent and unsafe time to live in Memphis, full of both political and racial tension. An 1867 newspaper report said that an incendiary started a fire in a backroom on the second story of a building occupied by "Samuel Croghan, a colored man, [used] as an ice cream establishment. He had one room on the first floor and four

on the second. All . . . were damaged more or less by fire and water. . . ." The article went on to hint that the arson may have been racially motivated.

Within a year, mentions of Sam's political activities began appearing. He was a founding member of the Memphis Colored Democratic Club, "urging peace, fraternity, and tranquility and a desire to prevent a war of the races."

By 1874, he was back in New Orleans with another restaurant and, at age 54, married Jane Gibson Vincent, also a cook. While they often struggled to make ends meet, Sam and Jane worked hard to run their restaurant and boarding house.

I am continuing to focus on Sam and Jane in my research and look forward to learning more about them.

## CULTURAL PASS DELIGHTS – Noah Hiner, Visitor Services Assistant



Metro Louisville's Cultural Pass program has become a mainstay for our summer programming at Locust Grove. With the help of dedicated volunteers, we turn Tuesdays during the summer into an interactive experience for participants from all across the city.

Hundreds (sometimes thousands) of schoolchildren come to Cultural Pass each year, getting a unique opportunity to engage with the rich history of Locust Grove and all who lived here. They have a special tour of the historic house — while around the grounds, people demonstrate period trades such as hearth cooking and sewing.

New this year was an "artifact touch table." The items on the table

include reproductions of items on display in our museum gallery as well as examples of the kinds of items archeologists have found on our grounds. Participants are encouraged to touch and handle these items.

The touch table was run by volunteer **Heather Hiner**, using her extensive knowledge from researching the lives of the enslaved community at Locust Grove. She made each object come alive and allowed participants to learn about enslavement in a unique way.

**Lindsay Shelden**, newly appointed member of the Directorial Team for the First Person Interpreter program, frequently demonstrated period embroidery in character as Diana Bullitt.

Along with our demonstrators, we've had an extraordinary crew of docents assisting with the program — with special thanks to **Mitzi Root**, **Troy Overton**, and **Sandy Dempsey** who have been among our regulars.



# SPIRIT AWARD

PATTY & TOM HUCKABY

When it comes to being a team, look no further than **Patty and Tom Huckaby**.

“Patty and Tom are always available for the very time-consuming tasks of sorting donated books and setting up the sales tables,” says **Brenda Tuckson**, HLG board member and coordinator of volunteers for Locust Grove’s book sales. “And I count on Patty to help with check-out during the sales. They’re both so valuable to this event.”

That’s why the Volunteer Steering Committee selected the Huckabys for this issue’s Spirit Award.

“The Spirit Award is given to volunteers who embody a dedicated, cheerful spirit and contribute to the success of Locust Grove,” says VSC Chair **Paula Wolf**. “That sums up Tom and Patty.”

When Patty, a retired librarian, heard about Locust Grove’s Book Sales, she wanted to become involved. “Being around books satisfies some sort of need for me,” says Patty. “Besides, how great it is to find some bargains and know that what we buy will benefit Locust Grove.”

A few years after Patty became involved, she heard that Book



Sale Coordinator **Harvey Venier** was looking for help to move boxes and set up the sale tables. Enter Tom Huckaby.

“Tom and Patty have been such a great help to Harvey and the book sale team,” says **Kaitlyn Tisdale**, Director of Interpretation. “They always are very focused and so pleasant to be around.”

Tom and Patty met at the University of Kentucky. After they married, they bought a greenhouse business in Laconia, Ind. “We owned that small range of greenhouses in Southern Indiana for nearly 45 years,” says Patty. “I was the librarian at the elementary school that our three children attended. When we sold the greenhouse business and retired, we returned to Louisville.”

Tom enjoys working in his woodshop and Patty loves to cook and bake. They were frequent travelers — until Covid cut into that. But they are gradually returning to those adventures.

“We both like to read and are always pleased when we find some great deals at the book sale,” laughs Patty. “And we especially enjoy meeting the many people who volunteer at Locust Grove and who value this historic site.”

## WHAT IS THE VOLUNTEER STEERING COMMITTEE?

*Paula Wolf, Volunteer Steering Committee Chair (2021-2023)*

Established more than 20 years ago, the Volunteer Steering Committee works as a liaison between volunteers, the Locust Grove Board of Directors, and the staff at Locust Grove. Its goals are to enlist, engage, support, and recognize the volunteers.

The committee can have as many as eight members, including the chair. We try to ensure that the committee has a representation of the various volunteer roles such as the front desk/museum store, First Person Interpreters, book sale workers, docents, and special event volunteers. Each person serves a two-year term for one term. To be a committee member, you must have been a currently active volunteer for at least six months.

Thanks to the committee members who have just completed their terms — **Sharron Hilbrecht, Cathy Leist, and Mitzi Root**.

They were invaluable members who helped to keep things going even when the site was closed due to the pandemic.

We welcome our new members whose terms began July 1 —

**Judy Chang, Mary Kay Lievense, and Lindsay Shelden.**

Our returning members are **Noah Hiner, Troy Overton, and Brenda Tuckson.**

In the coming year, we hope to schedule volunteer field trips and other events so volunteers from all roles can get together and learn from each other. We want to build a volunteer community at Locust Grove and hope you will join us.

Thank you to all volunteers! We could not have this wonderful site without you. And please contact me at [paulawolf@gmail.com](mailto:paulawolf@gmail.com) with your comments and suggestions.

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Many thanks to the hundreds of people who support Historic Locust Grove through memberships and various kinds of donations. We depend upon and deeply appreciate your generosity and involvement.

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A most special "Thank You!" to all of you, far and wide, who purchased raffle tickets to improve our site.

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## 'FREE FOURTH' CELEBRATION

On Saturday, July 2, Locust Grove opened its doors to the community — free of charge — as part of Locust Grove's commemoration of Independence Day and its legacy. Visitors toured the historic house and grounds and interacted with First Person Interpreters. Here, Interpreter **Brandon Vigliarolo** reads the Declaration of Independence from Locust Grove's porch. Later that day, Locust Grove Museum Theatre Actor **Tajleed Hardy** read excerpts from Frederick Douglass' famous speech, *What to the Slave is the Fourth of July?*





Historic Locust Grove  
561 Blankenbaker Lane  
Louisville, KY 40207  
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**Fall Antiques Market**  
**Sunday, Sept. 25**  
**10 AM–4:30 PM**

Summer 2022

Market Fair and Fall on the Farm — Saturday & Sunday, Oct. 29 & 30, 10 AM–4:30 PM



This year, Locust Grove's Market Fair will be enhanced by a new celebration -- Fall on the Farm. The weekend will emphasize the intersection of military and civilian life during the Revolutionary War era and into the early 19th century. Soldiers will camp near a village market featuring sutlers (sellers of period goods), artisans, food purveyors, and period entertainers.

In the hearth kitchen and the washhouse, the work of the farm goes on. This year's event is set in a lull between battles. The soldiers won't clash in the field, but they'll work on strategy, drilling, and recruiting new enlistees.

Admission: \$8 for adults; \$4 for children 6-12; free for children under 6. Includes a tour of the historic house museum.



HISTORIC LOCUST GROVE

**GROVE GAZETTE**

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