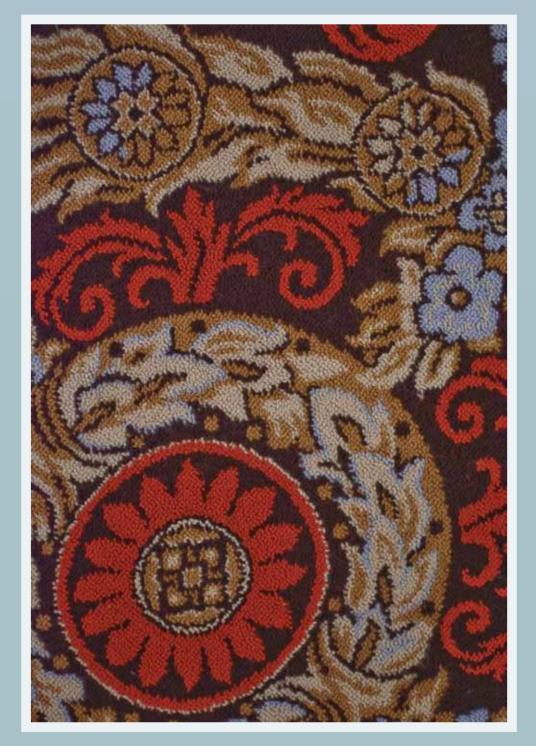


# HISTORIC LOCUST GROVE ANNUAL REPORT 2016



Front cover: detail of the parlor carpet



The mission of Historic Locust Grove is to preserve and interpret the remaining 55 acres of William Croghan's estate, Locust Grove, with its circa 1792 house, outbuildings, collection and grounds as examples of early nineteenth-century frontier America, and to share the stories of the many people who contributed to the history of the site, emphasizing the experiences of George Rogers Clark, Revolutionary War hero and founder of Louisville.



Locust Grove is accredited by the American Alliance of Museums.

Locust Grove is owned by Louisville Metro Government and managed by Historic Locust Grove, Inc.



# From the President of Historic Locust Grove



I am honored to have been elected as the Board President of Locust Grove for the 2017 and 2018 fiscal years. Kate Boyer is the exiting President and I want to thank her for the dedicated leadership during her tenure. Kate has also been instrumental in the development and implementation of the Master Plan for Locust Grove.

I have been associated with Locust Grove since it was formed as an independent organization. Initially, I was the lead partner on the audit, then a member of the Finance committee, next Treasurer and now President. I look forward to working with the many active and dedicated members of the staff and board.

Locust Grove continues to be a treasure for the Louisville community as the Croghans hosted many individuals of historical significance. What strikes me when I cross the threshold into the house at Locust Grove is that I am crossing the same threshold as George Rogers Clark, President Andrew Jackson and Lewis and Clark, just to name a few. Locust Grove provides a portal into this world through the interpretation of the house and the various events held on the grounds.

Locust Grove has the same challenges as most non-profit organizations of doing their absolute best to fulfill their mission in a competitive funding environment. I am always impressed with the team's ability, under the leadership of Carol Ely (Executive Director), to provide high-quality events and education opportunities and providing this within the parameters of the operating budget. The staff is supported by a dedicated board and volunteer group who have an unwavering passion for Locust Grove.

We thank all the donors for their generous and ongoing support for Locust Grove. It is your financial support that allows us to advance the mission of Locust Grove and to assist the team in preserving the National Historic Landmark for future generations.

We look forward to seeing you on your next visit.

Christopher Green Historic Locust Grove Board President



#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2016-2017

#### **Executive Committee**

Christopher Green, President Kate Boyer, VP Rosalind Streeter, VP Mark Gaston, Secretary James Statler, Treasurer

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## Carol Ely, Executive Director

We thank our outgoing board member Joyce Hanson, for her service to Locust Grove. We note with sadness the death of Dottie Berry, *Advisor*.



Locust Grove when it was still the Waters Family Farm, 1961



Second floor hall during restoration in 1963



# From the Executive Director



Recently a small group of us viewed a remarkable presentation about Locust Grove and saw this place from a completely new perspective.

Map overlays shifted on top of each other through GIS computer manipulation, aligned to common points and with a common scale – and the history of this land in layers of time appeared before our eyes on screen. Lowest down, we saw the topographical level of streambeds and hills from before white settlers set foot here. Next, a view from ground-reflective radar (LIDAR) traced the ground contours of today in three dimensions. Over that, the earliest surveyors' work to map and measure plats for land grants, then Croghan's era of spreading farms, stations, and roadways appeared.

An archaeological survey showed material residue remaining underground from many periods, and overlays of 20th century aerial photography suggested the original structures that had left those traces behind. An unrealized plan to carve up Locust Grove for suburban housing showed what might have been. A modern survey then overlaid the features of the 1960s-era restored and reconstructed landscape.

The presentation was created by Anne Bader of Corn Island Archaeology and is still being refined with new information from maps and surveys as part of the work of our Cultural Landscape Plan team. We'll start showing it to the public in 2017.

Through this screen into the past we see William Croghan's classically symmetrical Georgian-era estate, laid like a blanket over the uneven contours of this hilly site. We see the necessary farm buildings scattered irregularly on the land as needed for crops and livestock. We peer through a veil of later changes to discern a world that Croghan, Clark, and their dependents and neighbors knew as home.

This is, in some ways, just what we do all the time in our interpretation of the site. We examine and pull out the bits of evidence and find ways to present the stories to the public. But it was magical to see that evidence spring to life in an entirely fresh way.

In the next year, we start to realize our Master Plan for the landscape of these unique fifty-five acres. We want to bring fresh insights and remarkable conjunctions, new eyes and new ears, and to enlighten our friends and visitors with renewed understanding and empathy for the people who created and lived at Locust Grove. That's our challenge and our delight, and we invite you to join us on this journey to link the "then" to the "now."

With your support, amazing things are possible!

Carl Ely

Carol Ely, Ph.D., *Executive* Director Historic Locust Grove, Inc.

# **Historic Locust Grove Staff**

*Executive Director* Carol Ely, Ph.D.

Curator of Collections & Education Mary Beth Williams

Visitor Services Manager Jennifer Jansen

Business Manager/ Development Assistant Debbie Scott

Caretaker John Bateman

Program Director Brian Cushing

Marketing Coordinator Bonny Wise

Digital Communications Manager Hannah Zimmerman

Custodian Chris Jones

Education Assistant Diane Statler

Gardener Sarah Sutherland

Weekend Managers Bob Boone Sharron Hilbrecht Alba Jennings Lynn Lamb Tricia Langley

## Volunteers

Locust Grove volunteers make all the difference. They greet visitors at the front desk, lead tours, assist in the museum store, teach school groups, run concessions and take admissions at our events, perform as costumed interpreters, demonstrate period crafts and skills, assist with cleaning, bake for our lecture series, help with the garden... and much more. In 2015-16 they provided nearly 12,000 hours of service.

Photo credits: Gary Bourne, Heather Hiner, John Nation, Jeannie Vezeau, Marilyn Motsch



# **FRIENDS OF LOCUST GROVE**

Friends of Locust Grove, our membership group, are an important source of support for Locust Grove. Memberships cost \$35 for an individual and \$50 for a family, and are available as gifts.

# **Program Spotlight: A Duel Among Gentlemen**

Clay, the cousin of Henry Clay, and became an anti-slavery advocate.

Last July, 2016, at Locust Grove, Clay and Wickliffe faced off again for a 21st century reenactment of this conflict, with all the ritual and etiquette that comes with dueling itself. Complete with their seconds, costumed interpreters played the roles of the duelists under the watchful eye of Locust Grove's owner, Dr. John Croghan, for a crowd of observers. This re-enactment is the second in a series of programs that look at aspects of Locust Grove's history beyond our usual period of focus during Clark's residence.



In its heyday in the United States, dueling was a fashionable way of defending one's honor. There was a prescribed set of steps that must be followed in order to challenge one to a duel, accept the challenge, and decide on time, location, and weapons. It was perhaps not the most productive form of conflict resolution, but it allowed one individual to demand satisfaction from another for an insult or an injustice without descending into chaos and brawling.

Why did Clay and Wickliffe duel on Locust Grove's lawn? For one thing, they were political rivals. In the election of 1840, they both campaigned for the same Assembly seat. They also had very different views on slavery, specifically the repeal of an 1833 statute that outlawed the importing slaves in to Kentucky

to be sold. Clay opposed the repeal of this law, and the practice of slavery, declaring himself in favor of the gradual emancipation of slavery, while Wickliffe accused him of being an abolitionist who sought a rebellion against the state.

In a letter to his brother-in-law, General Thomas Jesup, Dr. John Croghan details the day of the duel, as several men essentially showed up on his lawn to duel it out. He reported on "the unexpected arrival here of some half a dozen gentlemen to settle an affair of honor ... Both parties it seemed had agreed to meet ... They fought near our Mill and after the exchange of a shot a reconciliation ensued. They missed.... After the affair was over all parties came to the house... I had for all something to eat & drink and I think they went home as happy as they left there."

In 2016, the audience for the re-enactment went away happy too.

# MAJOR PROGRAMS 2015-2016

## Free Independence Day – July

About 750 visitors came to visit the house staffed with costumed interpreters. Readings of the Declaration of Independence throughout the day from the porch of the house were very popular.

# Historical Picnic and Croghan Wedding - July



The 1822 Wedding /Picnic in July was in place of the Jane Austen Festival (which took a year's hiatus), and provided a historical experience using the skills of our costumed interpreters to recreate the Ann Croghan/Thomas Jesup wedding. On one of the hottest days of the summer, the "picnic" aspect was not popular, but the event was lovely and appreciated by the 200+ attendees.

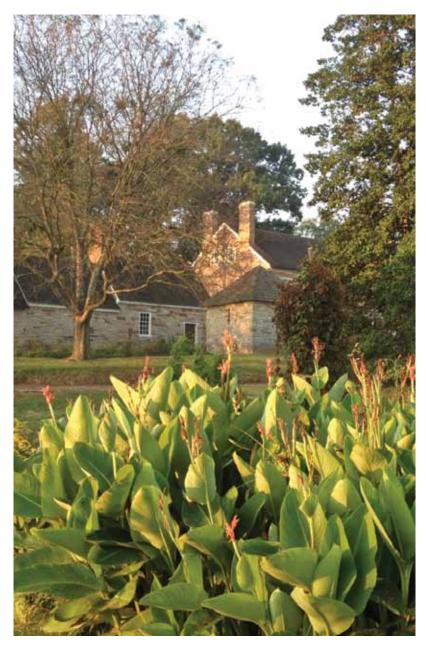
#### **Hemp Festival** – August

The first such event we've done, brought great publicity and an entirely new audience of more than a thousand people. With vendors, demonstrations, music, food trucks, and speakers, it included a varied menu of activities, and the growing hemp crop itself was a big attraction.

#### Used Book Sales – August and March



The ever-popular Used Book Sale grossed \$22,000 in August, and more than \$23,000 in March, with good effect on memberships as well, and has spun off some smaller sales in conjunction with other programs. The Sale brings an audience that is more diverse than any other program here.



**BY THE NUMBERS** 25,185 ATTENDANCE

- 1,098 CULTURAL PASS FREE VISITORS
- II,955 VOLUNTEER HOURS WORKED
  - 61 SCHOOL GROUP TOURS
- 10 LECTURES 10 WEEKEND FESTIVALS

• 6 CONCERTS • 4 THEATRICAL PERFORMANCES And numerous rental events, invitational programs, and more

# **Cultural Pass donors**

mall gifts add up to a big experience. If you think we seem busier than ever in the summer, you're right! Locust Grove has been a site for the Cultural Pass program since its inception in 2014. and over the past three summers has welcomed thousands of new visitors to the house and grounds. The Cultural Pass Program is sponsored by Metro Louisville, and is part of an initiative to increase summer learning and promote arts and cultural education around the city through free passes to cultural organizations. More than 30 organizations and over 100,000 students have participated in the



program by receiving a passport from the Louisville Free Public Library.

At Locust Grove, young visitors are treated to a thirty-minute tour of the first floor of the house and the hearth kitchen, and are then invited to learn how to write with quill and ink, paint with watercolors, sew, color historic wallpaper designs, roll a hoop, or master the crowd-favorite game of trap-ball.

Locust Grove has opted to create a more hands-on, interactive, child-friendly experience for this particular program, in order to engage children in the activities of daily life on a 19th century farm. The rewards of such an approach are numerous. Many young visitors are introduced to Locust Grove and to museum-going, guests have a reason to spend



more time on site, and they receive a richer experience than they might on a daily house tour.

All this is time intensive and could not happen at all without two important factors: the donated time and talents of a dedicated cadre of volunteers and costumed interpreters, who organize the activities on the porch and spend hours in the summer sun demonstrating 19th century pastimes; and the generosity of individuals and families who fund the supplies and support staff necessary to offer an exceptional visit to Locust Grove for our Cultural Pass visitors – all through small but targeted gifts.

Donors to the Cultural Pass directly support kids – kids who otherwise would not know the pleasures of informal summer learning at a place like Locust Grove. Would you like to make a donation to help more kids experience Locust Grove? Gifts of all sizes are welcome.

# MAJOR PROGRAMS 2015-2016 (continued)

## Antiques Markets – September and June



The September Antiques Market was a success, with good weather and attendance of about 1300; June's event had unseasonably hot weather and a smaller crowd. The event features professional dealers from the South and Midwest displaying their wares on the lawn at Locust Grove. In addition to American country antiques, the show features formal furniture, books, textiles, jewelry, and silver.

#### 18th Century Market Fair - October



The 18th Century Market Fair was affected by rain on the weekend this year. The weather was good on Friday, for a very successful school day at the Fair. The event was probably the best it has ever been in terms of vendors, entertainers, and food providers.

## FUN FACTS ABOUT LOCUST GROVE



Miles from Dublin (William Croghan's birthplace) to Louisville: **3,756** 



Presidents and Vice-Presidents who visited Locust Grove: **4** James Monroe, Andrew Jackson, Zachary Taylor (pictured)



Books donated annually to Locust G rove Book Sale: approx. 65,000



İtems in Locust Grove archaeology collection: 27,361



Degrees of temperature at Gardeners' Fair (May): **43°** Degrees of temperature at Antiques Fair (june): **93°** 



Age at elopement of Mary Elizabeth Croghan: 14



Soldiers in Clark's Illinois Regiment: about 175



Enslaved people at Locust Grove in the 1820s: 48 Years since the enslaved were freed: 159



Years Locust Grove has been a public museum: **55** 



Croghan children who died before Lucy: 5 (of 9)



Original acres of Locust Grove: **693-5** 

Remaining acres: **55** 



Value in dollars of volunteer hours last year: \$275,802



Honorary swords granted to George Rogers Clark by Virginia: **2** 



# Croghan family portraits on display in the house: 6

George Rogers Clark, William Croghan, Lucy Croghan, Ann Croghan, George Croghan (pictured), Serena Livingston Croghan



Acres of Kentucky land William Croghan owned:: 53,860

"The house and grounds are absolutely beautiful and provide great insight into what life for some in the early days of Louisville was like. Our tour guide was outstanding in her ability to bring to life the former residents of the house."

MAJOR PROGRAMS 2015-2016 (continued)

## **Christmastide** – December



Our candlelight event, Christmastide, presented life in the house in the year 1816, with children's crafts, and a small book sale in the Auditorium. We had a small increase in attendance this year, 408 visitors.

# 18th Century Thunder - April



Thunder weekend 18th century style, commemorating the arrival of Revolutionary War troops in 1778 under the command of General George Rogers Clark. Several hundred people came in good weather.

# Gardeners' Fair & Silent Auction – May

Our flagship event, the Gardeners' Fair, faced weather challenges – it was cold! – and the attendance was disappointing. Still, with the vendor fees, sponsorships, and other revenue, the Fair and the Silent Auction added more than \$28,400 in profit to this year's ledger.





# **Acquisitions & Collections**

Clutter. We tend to think of clutter as a bad thing. Shelves of books have been written, and industries created, to help people remove clutter from their lives.

But this year we've focused on adding clutter to Locust Grove's historic spaces. Clutter is the remains of lives lived when the people have left the room. Stories are embedded in the detritus, the stuff, the material objects that people treasure, or pile up, or just neglect to discard. The spool of thread that rolls under the bed, the stack of letters that need replies, the decorative comb that was a gift from an aunt who didn't quite know your taste – we all have those sorts of things around, as did the Croghans.

Adding historic clutter involves both research and imagination. The Croghans' shopping history is remarkably preserved in the records of Louisville's Fitzhugh and Rose store, owned by Lucy's sister's family. We can see some of what they purchased for their home and for their own adornment. Hair ribbons for the girls, for instance — so now we have some colored silk ribbons on the dresser in the third floor girls' room. These are reproduction, of course. But we've also pulled some books out on the tables for this literate family that are part of our permanent collection; books whose titles are recorded in the store ledgers as Croghan family purchases.

In the Great Parlor, a card game has been interrupted, and Lucy has set down her sock knitting. Boots stand by the side door, and coats are draped over benches.

Our collection is now growing with attention to these fine details. We have the legacy of an appropriate assemblage of large furniture and decorative pieces, a few of them family heirlooms donated to Locust Grove, though most were the product of the period's furniture workshops. Now we focus on how the family lived in those rooms, and we will continue to seek period clutter to help us discuss and illuminate the era and the individuals.





Our major furniture acquisition of the year was an upholstered Hepplewhite sofa that was donated by Mrs. Barry Bingham Jr. The piece had passed down in her family in the Washington D.C. area. It is currently displayed in the Great Parlor on the second floor of the house. The sofa is believed to have been made by John Needles, a Baltimore cabinet maker ca. 1825.

#### SPECIAL PROGRAMS 2015-2016

A fourteen-program series of Thursday night events in the summer of 2015 spanned the gamut from bourbon tastings and book appraisals to a Prohibition-era party and an evening woods walk. There were hits and misses, as expected in this experimental series. Most popular: food and drink related events, book related events. Attendance (14 programs): 232 guests.

## An Evening with Mark Bittman – September



In partnership with The Berry Center The "Evening with Mark Bittman" event was a great

experience for all, with attendees from around the region from farmers to chefs to writers to activists, all enjoying an evening of food and talk about farming and sustainability. We hosted more than 200 guests for hors d'oeuvres, drinks, and a discussion among Mayor Fischer, Mary Berry of the Berry Center, and Mr. Bittman, food writer for the *New York Times*.

#### AASLH Dinner at Locust Grove - September

Locust Grove sponsored the opening dinner of the Association for State and Local History conference in Louisville, with about 190 guests also enjoying the gardens along with dinner and drinks, docent-stationed tours, and our costumed interpreters. The visitors, history museum professionals, preservationists, and educators, were impressed with the Croghans and with Historic Locust Grove.

#### Admiral Horatio Lord Nelson Speaks at Locust Grove – October

Bryan Austin of Colonial Williamsburg as Nelson presented his account of his exploits during the Napoleonic Wars.

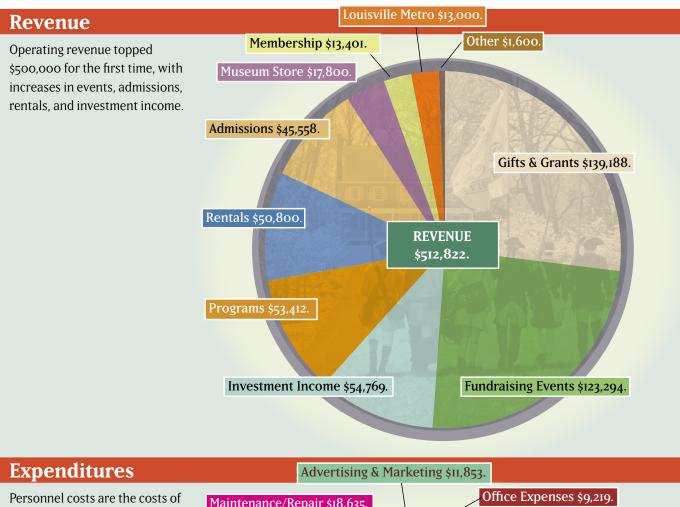


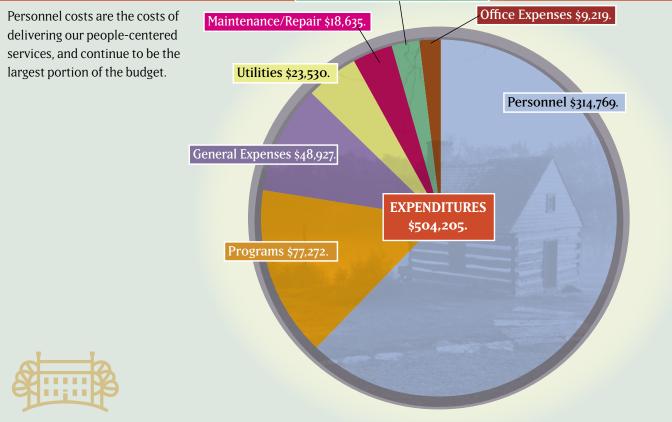


# **PRESERVATION/RESTORATION CHECKLIST 2015-16**

- Shutters replaced on the west side of the House
- The three log buildings were repaired, patched, and sealed
  - The HVAC system in the house has been repaired to protect from system breakdowns
    - Repairs to the House's north cornice and installation of roof flashing
    - Construction of two wooden staircases or "stiles" over the historic stone wall
- Archaeological examination of area between quad gardens and dairy – inconclusive findings; further work needed

# THE YEAR IN REVIEW





#### SPECIAL PROGRAMS 2015-2016 (continued)

Frankenstein: A Reading Performance by Kentucky Shakespeare – October



Right in time for Halloween, Kentucky Shakespeare brought this classic story to life in a reading performance in the Great Parlor. Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley wrote and published Frankenstein during the Croghans' occupancy of Locust Grove, making this a perfect melding of worlds to mark the season.

# Distillery Project Auction – November

An online auction through Wallysauctions.com of New York featured five donated and signed bottles of the finest from Old Rip Van Winkle distillery. The auction of "Pappy" raised an unprecedented \$20,200 for the project.

# Violin Concert – March

Robert Simmonds, violinist with the Louisville Orchestra, performed selections in Locust Grove's Great Parlor. Mr. Simmonds kindly donated his time.

# Shakespeare in the Parks: Romeo and Juliet – April

Kentucky Shakespeare presented Romeo & Juliet outdoors, free, for about 200 viewers.







# **INTERN PROJECTS SUMMER-FALL 2016**

• Samantha Hagan finished a small exhibit now on display in the Surveyor's Office cabin of the exhibit gallery, based on archaeological finds.

- Bailey Mazik completed the inventory of the collection, focusing on the outbuildings.
- Sarah Hagan researched Dr. John Croghan (*pictured above*), and developed a tour focused on his time at Locust Grove.
  - Melissa Alexander demonstrated hearth cooking and assisted with the Cultural Pass. Her research includes early farm distilleries.

#### Anonymous

**Brooke Brown Barzun & Ambassador Matthew Barzun** Edith S. Bingham **Christina Lee Brown** Victoire & Owsley Brown III Sandra A. Frazier Mr. & Mrs. G. LaMar Gaston, Jr. **Gheens Foundation** 

#### George Rogers Clark Society \$5,000+

Mr. & Mrs. David Jones Nancy W. Lee Vivian Ruth Sawver & Thomas T. Noland, Jr. **Margaret Stewart Schmidt Fund** Mr. & Mrs. Dominick A. Pagano & Family **Edward & Helen Rhawn Foundation** at the Community Foundation of Louisville

Dace & King Stubbs, Heather & Marshall Farrer & Dace Maki through the Indian River **Community Foundation** 

#### Dr. & Mrs. B. Preston Thomas

**Buffalo Trace Distillery** Maker's Mark Solid Light Vendome Copper & Brass

#### Lucy & William Croghan Society \$2,500+

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## Clark Family Society \$1,000+

# Anonymous

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Illinois Regiment Society \$250+

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**Caudill Seed Triage Entertainment** Fallow Farms, LLC Hear in Kentucky Kentucky Junior Historical Society Kentucky Select Properties, LLC Kroger Company Lawnco **Mortenson Family Dental** New Earth, Inc. **Rainbow Blossom Natural Foods** The General Society of **Colonial Wars** Wilson & Muir Bank & Trust Company

## SPECIAL PROGRAMS 2015-2016 (continued)

# **Concert in the Great Parlor; Music in the American Wild** – *June*

A performance in the Great Parlor of *Music in the American Wild*, a collaboration of seven instrumentalists and eleven composers established to honor the 2016 centennial of the U.S. National Park Service.

# **Emilie Strong Smith Chamber Music Series**

October: Automne a mis son Manteau Coloré December: Musical Roots of Dickens's "A Christmas Carol" February: Songs of Love, Loss & Longing April: Anthony Philip Heinrich & the Dawning of Music in Kentucky.

# **Afternoon Lecture Series**

July: Tough Times in 1815 and 1816, with Lynn Renau

August: Simon Kenton, Frontiersman, with Mel Hankla

September: *Thirsty? The Story* of Louisville's Water Works, with Kelley Dearing Smith

October: Traditional Irish Food Ways, with Michael and Siobhan Reidy

November: Daniel Boone: An Intimate Portrait, with Kent Masterson Brown

December: Louisville Dulcimer Society

February: *Kentucky by Design,* with Allan Weiss

March: *The Indiana Wilderness Trail,* with David Ruckman

April: The Kentucky Historical Society Presents: Kentucky Treasures

June: *Quilt Art: Examining the Narrative in Kentucky Quilts,* with Dr. Pearlie M. Johnson

#### **Summer Camps**

Nature Camp Sponsored by Jefferson Memorial Forest Camp Shakespeare

Sponsored by Kentucky Shakespeare













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