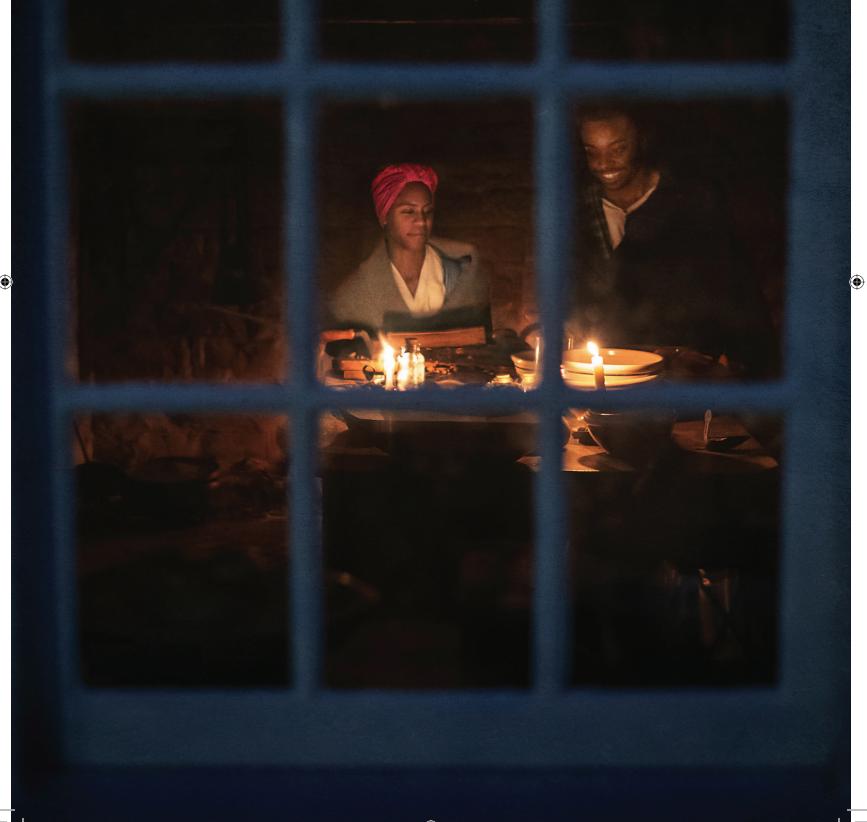


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LOCUST GROVE

ANNUAL REPORT 2019





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FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

A warm greeting to our many friends and supporters:

Events and programs at Historic Locust Grove continue to draw large audiences who appreciate our many offerings that focus on early American history in the Ohio Valley. Our *Age of Hamilton* events drew especially large and enthusiastic audiences, which coincide with the Broadway roadshow *Hamilton*.

Our architectural and engineering plans for revamping the Visitors' Center and constructing and event pavilion are nearing completion and the Capital Campaign to fund these exiting projects continues. I encourage you to make a gift or pledge to these projects if you have not already done so.

On behalf of the Historic Locust Grove Board of Directors, we are extremely grateful for our many donors, volunteers, audiences, and our dedicated and talented staff, and we all look forward to exciting new programs and projects in this new year.

Hunter G. Louis
Board President,
Historic Locust Grove, Inc.





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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Lafayette, Burr, Hamilton, Washington... and Croghan. These men risked all to create America in the Revolutionary and Federal eras.

But so did Amos, and Criss, and Lamb, and Alfred; and Silvie, Sarah, Nanny, and Hannah. At Locust Grove this year we've looked at the stories of the world-builders of the Age of Hamilton, and at the world of the actual builders, with a renewed focus on research on the lives of the individuals and families who were enslaved at Locust Grove.

As our national conversation looking at the legacy of slavery in America becomes a cacophony of voices, at Locust Grove we've worked to get back to the sources and find the people and tell their stories, both those who lived in Locust Grove's main house, and those who slept in outbuildings scattered around the property.

With the forthcoming book by Gwynne Potts, George Rogers Clark and William Croghan: A Story of Revolution, Settlement, and Early Life at Locust *Grove*, we'll see Clark through new eyes, in the context of his exploration and discovery, his relations with Native Americans, and his life after the military victories were just a memory. We'll follow William Croghan too, from Dublin through the Continental Army to this fine "seat" on the Kentucky frontier.

And in the coming year we also plan to take the life stories of Alfred and Silvie and their families to a higher level of visibility here through tours, programs, publications, and exhibits.

Our ongoing capital campaign has raised funds to begin the process of revitalizing the site's modern buildings and amenities, pathways and meeting places, for the audiences of the future. In a parallel effort, we continue to renew our connection to the past through research, interpretation, and programs, so that we can engage the public in a greater understanding of who we are, where we've been, and where we plan to go.

Thanks to our donors, members, volunteers, staff, visitors, Board, and friends who are joining us on this journey – you make all this possible!

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

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STAFF

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Debbie Scott

Program DirectorBrian Cushing

Marketing and Communications Director Hannah Zimmerman

Education CoordinatorDiane Statler

CaretakerKahalie Daugherty

GardenerSarah Sutherland

Weekend Managers
Leanna Allen
Sharron Hilbrecht
Alba Jennings
Pat Kelly
Krista Seymour

Visitors Services AssistantNoah Hiner

Volunteers

Our volunteers make so much possible at Locust Grove. They staff the Book Sale, greet visitors and orient them to the site and to the city, lead tours, undertake research, bake and grill for concessions at events, help plan programs, run the "gate" for weekend festivals, perform as the Croghan household as first person interpreters, dig and weed in the garden, and even more. In 2018-2019, they donated more than 13,000 hours of service. Thank you.

Contributors

Layout & Design: Karen Abney Art & Design Photo credits: Heather Hiner, Chris Jones, Wayne Tuckson, Aaron Henry, Jeannie Vezeau, Jason Hiner, Hannah Zimmerman

Cover Photo: Fox & Rose



PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT - AGE OF HAMILTON



What does a red-haired Virginian with an historic house museum honoring his legacy have in common with the ten-dollar Founding Father? The American Revolution of course! Our Age of Hamilton events brought the American Revolution and its ideas, personalities, and imitators to the fore this year, inspired by the arrival of Hamilton: An American Musical to Louisville. Enthusiasm for this popular Broadway hit was shared by staff members and volunteers, and with the encouragement of Executive Director Carol Ely, a new series of programs was born.

"The characters in the musical moved in the same Revolutionary world as Locust Grove's William Croghan. He knew Washington, Lafayette, Hamilton — and he was even distantly related to Burr, so the connections between our story and the musical's narrative were obvious and



Free Independence Day

A sunny and warm Fourth of July saw 1000 guests gathered on the grounds to enjoy readings of the Declaration of Independence, historic games, 19th century toasts to the United States as well as demonstrations of historic trades and activities by first person interpreters portraying the Croghan, the Clarks, and their friends and neighbors, and a small book sale of summer reading favorites. Sponsored by Independence Bank.

Jane Austen Festival

The 10th Annual Jane Austen Festival, sponsored by the Jane Austen Society of North American—Greater Louisville Region celebrated the bicentennial of the publication of Persuasion, Jane Austen's final novel. A seasonably warm weekend brought approximately 2,500 Janeites to Locust Grove to shop, promenade, enjoy theatrical performances, and sip afternoon tea.



exciting," Ely says. Each new program took on a theme or topic from the musical and the American Revolution itself ranging what came next for Aaron Burr following his infamous duel with Alexander Hamilton, to the perspectives of the Revolutionary Presidents, to the fashion and festivities of balls of the time period. The kick-off event, *An Evening with Sarah Vowell* in September, imagined what would have happened if the Marquis de Lafayette had been able to visit Locust Grove as he planned to do during his 1825 visit to Louisville.

A new evening series, *Punch with the Presidents*, focused on Presidents George Washington, John Adams, and Thomas Jefferson. The first of these events, *"John Adams Speaks"*, featured historic interpreter Peyton Dixon portraying the second president by candlelight after an unexpected power outage. White House Historian Matthew Costello joined us for an evening focused on the favorite libations of George Washington, and Gwynne Tuell Potts regaled our audience

with stories of the correspondence between Thomas Jefferson and George Rogers Clark. Historian Richard Bell pulled double-duty as our June Afternoon lecturer on the *African American experience during the Revolution*, and an evening presenter on the historical origins of the musical *Hamilton*.

Educational opportunities were also a part of the Age of Hamilton, with 22 area middle and high school teachers spending a Saturday learning about how they can use source material like Hamilton along with primary and secondary sources to teach American History and content literacy. During the Spring Encampment, 21 student performers dropped some knowledge with original compositions based on historical sources. These programs were essential to the heart of the Age of Hamilton at Locust Grove—bringing conversations about how history and popular culture can mingle together to enhance learning.

The *Age of Hamilton* at Locust Grove was an ambitious, successful, and jubilant celebration of the Revolutionary ideas and creativity of interpretation, both on the stage and at our site.



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Cultural Pass

Tuesdays were Cultural Pass days at Locust Grove, with 460 children and 300 accompanying adults enjoying house tours, and hands-on activities during this popular summer program over ten weeks in June, July, and August. Presented by Churchill Downs in partnership with Metro Louisville, the Fund for the Arts, and the Louisville Free Public Library, this program was made possible at Locust Grove through our donors and sponsors. Special thanks to the staff members and the volunteers who devoted their time and energy to making our fifth year of participation a rousing success.

Music in the Gardens: Summer Thursday Concert Series

A partnership with Kentucky Opera brought arias and arpeggios to our gardens for over 100 guests over three summer Thursdays evenings, with favorites from *Carmen, La Traviata, The Magic Flute, Porgy & Bess,* and more performed by Kentucky Opera artists.

Summer Camps

- History Camp with Jefferson Memorial Forest (July/August 2018)
- · Camp Shakespeare with Kentucky Shakespeare (June 2019)



CAPITAL CAMPAIGN DONOR SPOTLIGHT: LAMAR GASTON



You've seen him parking cars during our special events in all weathers or walking through the gardens on a regular basis in his familiar loafers, but for LaMar Gaston, supporting Locust Grove is all about supporting history.

LaMar first found himself where Louisville begins thirty-four years ago, when Nancy Stablein asked him to serve on the Board of Directors. Since then, he's served as Board President, Treasurer, and Secretary, and the Chair of the Grounds Committee and the Gardeners' Fair Committee. Most recently, he's joined our Capital Campaign committee as a driven and insightful voice for changes to our site.

According to LaMar, the proposed pavilion, reimagined Visitors' Center, and improved pathways around the site are "major needs to present the history of Locust Grove." He emphasizes, "Locust Grove presents a most important part of the history of Kentucky and our nation, especially with our connection to George Rogers Clark and the Lewis and Clark Expedition."



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Used Book Sales

The Summer Used Book Sale in August and the Spring Used Book Sale in March saw \$65,282 raised and over 39,000 books sold. The continued success and growth of this event is due to the support of the public in donating and buying books, and the literal heavy lifting and enthusiasm of the dedicated volunteers who sort, count, set up, and sell every single book.

Antiques Markets

Perfect weather brought vendors from around the region for this biannual event, with 1,370 guests browsing vendors from around the region in the fall, and 1,175 guests shopping during the summer market, along with the Books, Prints, Paper and Art Sale in the Visitors' Center.

Tea and Talk: Teasing Out Black History at Locust Grove

Dr. Joy Gleason Carew of the Pan-African Studies Department at the University of Louisville presented on the opportunities and challenges at Locust Grove in interpreting enslaved communities, as 53 guests listened during this tea and talk.



His family interest in history and his time at Locust Grove has given deeper meaning to his support of the Capital Campaign, which will allow the place he has championed to grow and serve future generations.

Carol Ely remarks, "LaMar's energy and creativity in fundraising for the site are an inspiration to me to always learn more about our donors, what brings them to give to Locust Grove, and to ASK – sometimes it's a "no", but LaMar gets a lot of "yes" answers too!"

Along with his many years of support, his contributions to the Capital Campaign at a high level, including extra support for marketing the campaign and the site, will have a lasting impact on our site, and will continue our National Historic Landmark's mission of preserving and interpreting the history of early Kentucky and the United States. "Meeting with staff and volunteers has been very positive," LaMar remarks. Locust Grove might say the same about meeting LaMar all those years ago.



Volunteer Research Library





Frankenstein

The annual October performance of *Frankenstein* by Kentucky Shakespeare invited 59 guests into the Great Parlor to hear Mary Shelley's classic gothic tale, celebrating its 200th anniversary. An additional 32 guests gathered a week earlier to view and discuss the 1910 silent film adaptation of *Frankenstein*, produced by Edison Studios.

18th Century Market Fair

A bright, blustery fall weekend took 1,326 guests back to the year 1778 and transformed Locust Grove to British-occupied Philadelphia, as George Rogers Clark planned his campaign against Kaskaskia, and William Croghan participated in the Battle of Monmouth. Music, a circus and Punch and Judy, sheep, vendors selling period goods, and a reenactment of the duel between John Laurens and Charles Lee rounded out this popular event.



DONOR SPOTLIGHT - BETTY SOUTHARD STOKES



For Betty Southard Stokes, history is about connections. Her desire to connect students with the history of Kentucky led her to support our new children's film for school programs, as an encounter with Locust Grove as a child inspired her for life.

"I was seven to nine years old when my father first took me to Locust Grove," remembers Betty. "The city of Louisville had just purchased the property and was raising money to restore the historic site. I had no idea we had ancestral family connections."

Betty is descended from the Wickliffes,

the same family of the Robert Wickliffe, Jr. who fought a duel with Cassius Marcellus Clay at Locust Grove in 1841. The history of her family and the history of Kentucky always inspired her, especially during her thirty-year career as an elementary school teacher and principal.

Her last years as the principal at Trunnell Elementary coincided with the Bicentennial of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, which led to a school-wide exploration of the topic. Betty recalls, "I managed to get my entire faculty involved with the celebration of Lewis & Clark, finding books for every reading level, and creating vocabulary and comprehension lessons for each grade."

This program, and Betty's years as a leader in Kentucky education brought recognition from the Board of Education, the National Education Association, and the Kentucky Historical Society. Her continued desire to create connections between students and

Christmastide

This holiday event remained evergreen with more than 700 guests enjoying a party in the historic house, hosted by William and Lucy Croghan and peopled with other members of the Croghan and Clark families. Guests also browsed artisan vendors and a holiday book sale, listened to musical performances from Lincoln Performing Arts School, and made holiday crafts with the help of dedicated Locust Grove volunteers. The superb talents of our corps of first-person interpreters were on full display during this day of revelry.

Encampment

A fine spring weekend saw 661 guests learning more about the American Revolution by visiting with members of the Illinois Regiment of Virginia, the women in the kitchen, and touring the historic house. Area students competed in our *Age of Hamilton* student showcase, performing original works inspired by historical events.



history led Betty to write a series of children's books in retirement about four famous Kentuckians, including *Postcards from George*, about George Rogers Clark. When she brought the book to Carol Ely at Locust Grove, she found herself with an invitation to join the Education Committee, a role she relishes.

As an Education Committee member and as a major donor to the project, she shaped the new children's film that will debut in 2020 with all of our field trip programs. "I just love helping students figure out how people connect in the past and the present," says Betty.

"I wanted to support the new film because I know how important visuals are for students of all ages, even adults." The film shows a day in the life of Ann Croghan in 1809—the very day that George Rogers Clark arrived to live at Locust Grove. And what did Betty think of the final product? "I teared up when I saw it for the first time," admits Betty. "It was that charming and beautiful."

Here's hoping generations of students will find beautiful connections for years to come.



MAJOR PROGRAMS 2018 - 2019 / Age of Hamilton

An Evening with Sarah Vowell

The New York Times bestselling author enthralled 160 guests with stories from her most recent book, Lafayette in the Somewhat *United States*, undaunted by weather and technical glitches. Her discussion with Louisville radio host Tara Anderson was followed by an 1825-style dinner like one the Marquis de Lafayette might have enjoyed had he visited Locust Grove, kicking off a year of programming for the Age of Hamilton in grand style.

Punch with the Presidents

This new series of evening programs inspired by Hamilton: An American Musical, saw 293 guests over four events enjoying period libations and engrossing discussions of the first three Presidents of the United States, plus an additional program focusing on the origins of the musical itself.

The series continued for four months and included these topics:



ACQUISITIONS AND COLLECTIONS

At the heart of Locust Grove is our historic house and its collection—the treasured objects, pieces of furniture, paintings, and textiles that richly enhance our interpretation of the early days of Louisville and the United States. Our Acquisitions and Collections Committee is at the center of caring for and growing this collection for future guests and students of the place where Louisville begins.

This year, the Acquisitions and Collections committee continued the inventory and condition assessments the artifacts on the second floor of the historic house. Minor repairs were made to the cherry corner cupboard on the second-floor landing, the wooden blinds in the Great Parlor were replaced, and all the silver in the historic house was cleaned during our January closure by hands-on committee members. The carpet on the steps in the house was replaced to better withstand the traffic of many guests, and two strips of worn carpet in the pink guest bedroom were replaced.



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MAJOR PROGRAMS 2018 - 2019 / Age of Hamilton

- · March: John Adams Speaks with Peyton Dixon
- April: George Washington, the Founding Fathers and their Spirits: Alcohol, Politics, and Consumption in Early America with Matthew Costello
- May: Thomas Jefferson and George Rogers Clark with Gwynne Tuell Potts
- June: Hamilton: How the Musical Remixes American History with Richard Bell

Aaron Burr, Sir

The third annual "Burrthday Party" celebrated Aaron Burr, "the villain in your history" and a distant relative of William Croghan who visited Locust Grove in 1805. 30 guests were treated to cake, a trivia contest, a discussion of historical clothing, and a sing-along.

Winter's Ball

70 guests came to mingle and revel during this historical ball inspired by *Hamilton: An American Musical*, with period dances and music



Continuing the partnership between the Education Committee and the Acquisitions and Collections Committee, forks were added to the dining room table as part of the teaching collection that can be used by our docents to enhance their tours and interpretation and provide for touchable elements of the Croghans' daily life at home at Locust Grove.

Most exciting of all, the Acquisitions and Collections Committee acquired two documents for the permanent collection. The first was a gift by Gywnne Potts and is a letter from Ann Croghan Jesup to her sister, Eliza Croghan Hancock. The letter dates to December 23, 1823, but the outer fold indicates it was mailed in 1824. In the letter, Ann writes to Eliza of her new baby, a visit from her brother George Croghan, and a fundraiser for an orphan asylum in Washington, D.C. The second document was acquired by museum purchase and dates to December 12, 1789, as "certificates of payments for military service against the Wabash and Shawnee Indians" given to Benjamin Logan and George Rogers Clark following the 1786 raids conducted by Logan and Clark against the Wabash and Shawnee. Logan served as Colonel of the Kentucky County, Virginia Militia during the American Revolution, and with Clark, led an infamous campaign in 1786 against the Indians in the Ohio Country. According to Gwynne Potts, this document is "enormously important", as it resulted from an audit conducted by Governor Harrison into Clark's accounts from the campaign.

As ever, we are encouraged by the commitment of the Acquisitions and Collections Committee to caring for our museum collection, and the generosity of our donors in helping to maintain and preserve the pieces of years past at Locust Grove.



MAJOR PROGRAMS 2018 - 2019 / Age of Hamilton

Unexpected Connections: Hamilton and Burr at Locust Grove

22 teachers from area middle and high schools participated in a day-long professional development workshop focusing on using primary and secondary sources to teach analytical skills, content literacy, and historical perspective, using Locust Grove and the American Revolution as a lens. Presenters included Gwynne Tuell Potts, Cheryl and Ron Adkisson, and the Locust Grove first-person interpreter corps.

Hamilton Fest

The capstone of our *Age of Hamilton* programming was a seasonably warm and smashing success, with 276 Hamilfans flocking to our site to celebrate the Ten Dollar Founding Father and his contemporaries with duel reenactments, a sing-a-long, a showcase of original student performances, and a trivia contest.

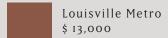


THE YEAR IN REVIEW

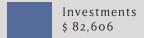
Earned and donated revenue for operations increased this year, especially donor support for our annual appeal.

REVENUE





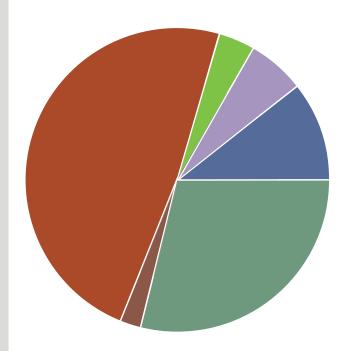








REVENUE TOTAL \$ 601,168



Gardeners' Fair

The 24th Annual Gardeners' Fair dawned with a few clouds in the sky, and almost 3,000 visitors, who enjoyed the Silent Auction, the thirty vendors of botanicals, perennials, garden art, and more, the alpacas, and historical demonstrations by Locust Grove first person interpreters. The addition of a Mother's Day Tea on Sunday proved especially popular and festive. Energetic and devoted volunteers who served tea, parked cars, sold admission and picked up trash made the event a true success.

Chamber Music

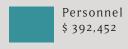
The Coral Anniversary of the Emilie Strong Smith Chamber Music Concert series celebrated 35 years of music performances from the Croghan time period in the Great Parlor of the historic house. Subscribers and guests enjoyed:

- September: A Baroque Violinist's Journey Through Europe
- October: The Return of the Basset Horn
- February: An Evening with an Unaccompanied Cello
- March: Swansong for Locust Grove's Pianoforte of Germany



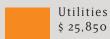
Personnel costs are the costs of delivering people-centered services to our visitors, and form the largest portion of the operating budget. Our staff now consists of 7 full-time and 9 part-time museum professionals.

EXPENDITURES

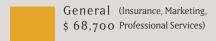




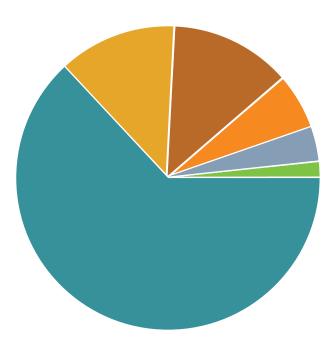








EXPENDITURE TOTAL \$ 595,525



Afternoon Lecture Series

- · July: Stabilization at Locust Grove with Christopher Quirk
- · August: Faces and Places in Kentucky Quilts with Sandy Staebell
- **September:** *Kentucky* and the Value of History with Stuart Sanders
- · October: "Kentucky's Audubon": An Account of the Life and Work of John James Audubon in Kentucky with Jennifer Spence
- · November: The Life and Times of Michael Humble with Mel Hankla
- · December: Louisville Dulcimer Society Annual Concert
- **February:** The Burr Conspiracy with Carol Ely
- March: The Art and Mystery of Kentucky Antiques with Scott Erbes
- · April: The Property of the Nation: Washington's Tomb, Mount Vernon, and the Memory of the First President with Matthew Costello
- · June: The African American Revolution with Richard Bell

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