



“That house has seen many a time”

HISTORIC LOCUST GROVE ANNUAL REPORT 2020





FROM THE PRESIDENT — Hunter Lewis

The year 2020 has indeed been a challenge as Covid-19 has impacted individuals, families, businesses and non-profits such as Historic Locust Grove. Locust Grove depends heavily on earned income from events such as our Gardeners' Fair, Antique Markets, house tours, lectures and weddings. The cancellation of most of these events as the result of the pandemic has had a significant negative impact on our cash flow.

On the positive side, our dedicated and talented staff have been creating a broad array of virtual programs which will enrich the visitor experience today and in the future. New historical research related to the significance of Locust Grove as an early Louisville farmstead will lead to more in-depth interpretive programs.

In spite of the pandemic, people are taking advantage of our beautiful fifty-five-acre site for walks and picnics and enjoyment of the eighteenth century craftsmanship that created the historic house and out buildings.

Another bright light on the horizon is the soon-to-begin construction of our Event Pavilion. Hopefully by summer, with the pandemic behind us, we will be able to host a range of events and activities that will enrich the lives of participants and visitors.

Donations from individuals, families and businesses have been key to maintaining our staff, buildings and grounds during this difficult time, and we are most grateful for this financial support. As we launch our Annual Appeal, our goal is to raise enough funds to maintain this National Historic Landmark today and into the future. We ask that you respond generously to the Annual Appeal, or by including Historic Locust Grove, Inc. in your planned giving or by donation to a specific operational or capital project during the year.

On behalf of the entire Locust Grove Board, we are most grateful for your involvement and support.

Sincerely,

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

FROM THE DIRECTOR — Carol Ely

The world turned upside down.

In March of 2020 our world was upended by a virus. What had been a busy but normal year of activity at Locust Grove, wrapping up campaign fundraising and preparing for construction on capital projects such as the outdoor Pavilion, ramping up our research and program planning on the enslaved population at Locust Grove, finally bursting forth with exciting farm distillery programs now that we have all the proper licenses...



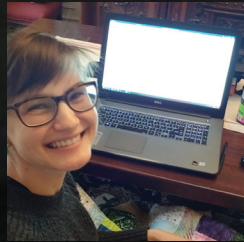
Stopped. As we adapted first to the new realities of Zooming and video production, and then reopened with masks and distancing, it was hard to get past the fact that what makes a visit here significant — personal tours, hands-on, vivid experiences, being in the real place — was going to change. And it has, and it will, and we'll come out of this stronger and better on the other side.

But — we've always relied on the income generated by programs on the site for about 40% of our revenue. It's gone for the time being. Getting to that other side, replacing the lost funding, is a challenge. Friends have stepped up, and local foundations have been listening. We've cut where we can, innovated programs where we can, and now we are asking the community - everyone who values the place that tells the stories of early Louisville - to support us until we can get back to the onsite programs that we all love.

Stay safe, stay strong, we'll get through this,

Carol Ely, PhD
Executive Director





A NOTE ON VIRTUAL PROGRAMS DURING THE PANDEMIC

Through Zoom, of course! Within a week of closing, staff had quickly pivoted to offering educational programs weekly through *Lessons from Locust Grove*, transitioned our monthly Afternoon Lecture Series to an online Living Room Lecture series over Zoom, and creating more new video series and web content than ever before. When the fiscal year ended on June 30, 2020, over 355 guests had attended our virtual lectures, and our videos had received over 15,000 views total. We're looking forward to continuing to find new and exciting ways to engage our audience as long as in-person events remain impractical.

This year ended very differently than it began. When Locust Grove announced on Friday, March 13 that we would be closed to the public for the foreseeable future due to COVID-19, a wise Facebook commenter wrote: "That house has seen many a time."

How poignant and how true. How do you tell the story of Locust Grove when the house, the outbuildings, and the Visitors' Center are all closed?

July 2019 - March 2020: Total Attendance: 15,060, School Tours: 1189 students

MAJOR PROGRAMS 2019 - 2020

Free Independence Day

A seasonably sunny Fourth of July brought 1100 guests to gather 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 Croghans, the Clarks, and their friends and neighbors, and a small book sale of summer reading favorites.



PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT — SLAVE DWELLING PROJECT



Finding the fingerprints of the enslaved brickmakers in the historic house shouldn't have been a surprise. But it took a visit from Joe McGill of the Slave Dwelling Project for us to look closely enough to finally see these remnants of those who labored to build our historic house. Joe McGill began The Slave Dwelling Project in 2010, first sleeping in a slave cabin at Magnolia Plantation in South Carolina. The Project expanded as McGill sought to sleep in as many former enslaved dwellings

across the country as possible, engaging members of the public in conversations about changing the narrative of slavery, and finding ways to preserve slave dwellings as historic sites. Kentucky became McGill's 26th state for his overnight visits to former slave sites, as he visited Locust Grove for the first time for a campfire conversation and overnight on a balmy Friday evening in August, and a public conversation about his work on the following Saturday afternoon. Participants in the Friday conversation were given the opportunity to camp on site overnight, either in tents or in either the hearth kitchen or the dairy, while Joe slept in the slave residence next to the smokehouse.



MAJOR PROGRAMS 2019 - 2020

18th Century Market Fair

Although the first day of Market Fair dawned rainy and cold, spirits at this perennial fall favorite event were not dampened, as reenactors turned back the clock to the year 1779 and 995 guests enjoyed music, Punch and Judy, sheep and oxen, and vendors selling period goods and foods.



Christmastide — December 2019

This evergreen holiday event saw 395 guests enjoying a party in the historic home, hosted by William and Lucy Croghan, and attended by their friends and relations, portrayed by our outstanding corps of first-person interpreters. Guests also browsed artisan vendors, a holiday book sale, enjoyed musical performances, and made holiday crafts.

Forty thoughtful participants gathered around a fire pit near the ice house that Friday evening, and after a meal prepared from food historian Michael Twitty's recipes, Joe introduced the topic of conversation: the legacy of slavery. For three hours, as dusk fell, participants shared their backgrounds, their reasons for attending the conversation, their thoughts on the legacy of slavery, and how historic sites like Locust Grove and individuals can address this legacy in a way that accurately reflects the realities of daily life for the enslaved. Many participants started to think about how slavery had affected their own lives—whether their ancestors were enslaved or owned slaves themselves.

Many Locust Grove staff members and volunteers participated in the campfire conversation, asking questions about the role of our historic site in

interpreting the lives of the enslaved, and how we can engage the community in this process.

But this campfire conversation was only the beginning. The following day, Joe McGill addressed an audience of 80, detailing the places where he had slept and reflecting on the lessons he had learned. In a blog post about his Locust Grove experience, Joe remarked, "Although, I was not sleeping at Locust Grove alone, I was alone in this space between the kitchen and the smokehouse. It gave me a lot of time to reflect, especially on the robust conversation that we just engaged in with a group that did not want the conversation to end when it did [...] Locust Grove impressed me again by generating a standing room only audience at a paid event."

That standing-room-only crowd has reverberated over the following



months, as our site continued to hold conversations about the lives of the enslaved, both internally and with members of the public, formed a task force to focus on the interpretation of the enslaved, developed a program focusing on an enslaved laundress with Louisville Tourism, converting the woodshop into a dwelling to interpret enslaved life, and most recently,

banding together with three other historic sites in Louisville for panel discussions and public programs that have brought Joe McGill back to Kentucky spaces—albeit virtually. The Slave Dwelling Project's first visit to Locust Grove has reverberated through all that we do—and we're still thinking and talking about our role in changing the narrative.

MAJOR PROGRAMS 2019 - 2020

Used Book Sales

August: 1,720 March: 1,250

The Summer Used Book Sale in August and the Spring Used Book Sale in March saw \$65,282 raised and over 60,000 books sold. The continued success and growth of this event is due to the support of the public in donating and buying books, even through the early months of the pandemic, and the literal heavy lifting and enthusiasm of the dedicated volunteers who sort, count, set up, and sell every single book.



DONOR SPOTLIGHT — VOLUNTEERS

“Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart.” —Elizabeth Andrew

At the heart of everything at Locust Grove are our volunteers. If you’ve ever visited Locust Grove, your path has been graced by their presence as they welcomed you to the site, answered your questions over the phone, guided your tour through the house, met you in the hearth kitchen on a field trip, baked treats for our Wednesday lectures, weeded the gardens, brought people from the past to life as one of our first person interpreters, researched the stories of the enslaved, directed your car to a parking space during a weekend event, and found you just the right book during a book sale.

“Our volunteers are the busiest people I know; that they choose to make time for Locust Grove is remarkable and humbling. Nothing could happen here without them,” says Jennifer Jansen, the Visitors Services Manager.

Without the gifts of our volunteers, we would not be able to share the amazing history of Locust Grove—the Clarks, the Croghans, and the more than 70 enslaved individuals that created and sustained Locust Grove—on such a grand scale each year. They willingly and selflessly give freely of their time and talents, and are committed to excellence, accuracy, and hospitality. The sense of community and comfort they have cultivated throughout our organization is truly special.

From June 2019 through June 2020, our corps of volunteers donated 6,513 hours of time and talent to Locust



MAJOR PROGRAMS 2019 - 2020



The Punch Bowl

In a partnership with Colonial Williamsburg, the distillery at Mount Vernon, Spirits of French Lick, and West Overton Village and Museums, this monthly historic happy hour started in May 2020 to bring in 80 virtual guests to explore the history of the distilling industry.





Grove—even during the months we were closed. Their presence was keenly missed even as we convened Volunteer Steering Committee meetings, a Book Club, and several Happy Hours over Zoom, and the staff is tremendously grateful to the volunteers for sticking with us through those trying times.

“There is only a small handful of staff members compared to the number of people need to get the work done to give life to all aspects of Locust Grove that our audience has come to love. It’s our volunteers dedicating their free time to these projects that pushes it all forward, and their caring causes our audience to care as well and continue to support us,” says Brian Cushing, Program Director. “Once the Age of COVID hit, these same volunteers were right there getting in touch to ask ‘What can I do?’ Our community has stuck together, been creative, and

have gone more extra miles than we could have hoped for. Our volunteer community is assurance to me that the future of Locust Grove is very bright.” “Whether it be their time, donations, or expertise Locust Grove volunteers continually rise to any challenge with selfless hearts and sleeves rolled up,” states Kaitlyn Tisdale, Director of Education and Family Programs, who works closely with the volunteers. “Time and again our volunteers have shown their flexibility and resiliency, and we are tremendously proud of all of their accomplishments.”

To our amazing volunteers: your steadfast dedication makes our dream work, year after year. For this, we thank you.

MAJOR PROGRAMS 2019 - 2020

Living Room Lecture Series

Beginning with James Holmberg of the Filson Historical Society in April 2020, the Afternoon Lecture Series held in person on the first Wednesday of every month became the Living Room Lecture Series, a once or twice monthly virtual lecture series over Zoom. Featuring speakers such as Gwynne Tuell Potts to speak on George Rogers Clark, Ronnie Dreistadt of

the Kentucky Derby Museum on the history of the Kentucky Derby, and medical researcher Terry Foody to discuss the 19th century cholera epidemics in Kentucky. 355 audience members joined Locust Grove from home offices, kitchens, and yes, even living rooms for these popular programs.



ACQUISITIONS AND COLLECTIONS

Taking the mission of Locust Grove to “preserve and interpret” to heart, the Acquisitions and Collections committee had a robust year of activities in maintaining, growing, and preserving our most precious objects. The most significant acquisitions were a 1790s map of the Upper Susquehanna Delaware Mohawk, donated by Bud Clark, a descendant of William Clark, and a letter written by General Thomas Jesup, husband of Ann Croghan Jesup, to his daughter Lucy Ann Jesup, purchased from Chris Wilson of Virginia. The committee also focused on using period and reproduction pieces to enhance the interpretation in the house. A reproduction women’s wrap dress donated by Amy Liebert was used to illustrate ladies’ clothing during the period, while a donation of five wine glasses by the late David Morton were filled with faux wine and placed in the dining room of the historic house to simulate a family meal.



The biggest project of the committee was an inventory of the collection in the former woodshop, in preparation to turn that space into a slave dwelling exhibit. The collection was carefully catalogued, and the collection was packed and removed to the basement of the house to ready the space for this new interpretation.

A major loan from Dumbarton House, the headquarters of the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America, has been put on hold until we are able to host in-person programming again. Dumbarton House had agreed to loan the dress of Lucy Croghan’s found in their collection, and we look forward to proceeding with this loan as possible in the coming months.

CAMPAIGN FOR A THIRD CENTURY

Locust Grove’s Capital Campaign wrapped up fundraising this year having achieved \$2.9 million of the original \$3.2 million goal. The Board decided to divide the campaign projects into phases, with additional fundraising still to come in the future for the later phases. The site-enhancing designs were created by DeLeon Primmer Architects and Environs landscape architects.

Phase I, projected to begin in the fall of 2020, includes:

- the open-air pavilion, to be used for large and small Locust Grove and rental events and programs, including the areas associated with the pavilion, from a new paved entryway to pathways and landscape plantings
- associated changes to the Visitors’ Center, such as an enclosed fenced area for outdoor storage and support equipment, new indoor storage areas,

and a catering kitchen; repainting of the exterior, and HVAC upgrades

- a new research library in the historic cabin at the south end of the Visitors’ Center
- interpretive additions to selected outbuildings, with exhibit panels in the interiors of the smokehouse, the kitchen, the new wash house (formerly the “residence”), the dairy, and the new slave dwelling (formerly the wood shop)

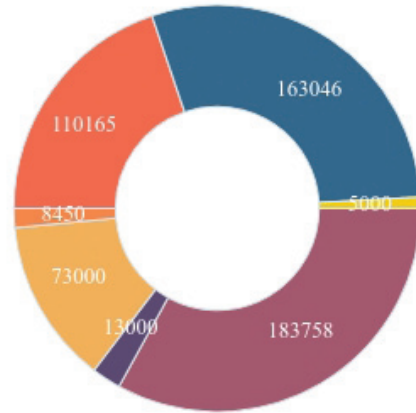
We are grateful for the many gifts that have made this possible, ranging from \$10 to \$1,000,000, from more than 300 individual, corporate, and foundation contributors; and we are also grateful to the Campaign Committee members and Board members who did the work of asking, especially Capital Campaign Chair Kate Dalton Boyer, and Honorary Campaign Chairs Gwynne and Grover Potts.



THE YEAR IN REVIEW

REVENUE

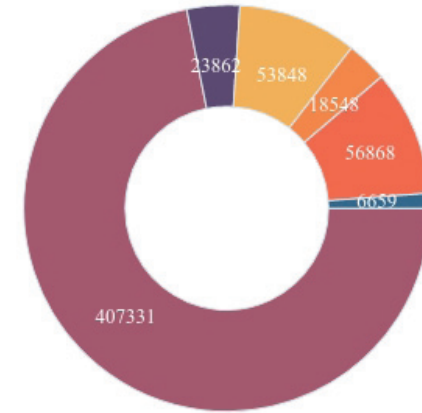
■ Gifts/Grants	183,758
■ Louisville Metro	13,000
■ PPP	73,000
■ Museum Store	8,450
■ Investments	110,165
■ Earned/Programs	163,046
■ Special Projects	5,000



TOTAL 556,419

EXPENDITURES

■ Personnel	407,331
■ Office Expenses	6,659
■ Maintenance/Repair	18,548
■ Utilities	23,862
■ Programs	53,848
■ General	56,868



TOTAL 567,116

Due to a mandatory shutdown of on-site operations from March 13 to the end of the fiscal year, this was a year like no other. Most of our usual end-of-year revenue from admissions, events, and rentals disappeared. We received a PPP loan/grant which helped to maintain staffing levels, but for the first time in the history of Historic Locust Grove Inc., we ran a deficit.

The year proceeded normally until the spring shutdown. Although we cut expenses where possible, a late-in-the-year correction was not enough to produce a balanced budget with so much lost revenue.



ANNUAL FUND AND FRIENDS SOCIETIES 2019-2020 (Please note that all Capital Campaign Donors are acknowledged on a separate insert sheet)

GEORGE ROGERS CLARK SOCIETY \$5,000+

William O. Alden III	Mr. & Mrs. LaMar Gaston, Jr.	Brook & Pam Smith	Fund for the Arts, Louisville
Katherine Dalton Boyer & Mark Boyer	Mr. & Mrs. John Hamilton	Elizabeth S. Stokes	Jane Austen Society of Greater Louisville
The Betty & Robert Bronner Fund	Nancy W. Lee	Jeannie & John Vezeau	Kentucky Humanities Council, Inc.
Mrs. John C. Diebold	Estate of Robert F. Pilkington	Anonymous Foundations	Margaret Stewart Schmidt Fund for Locust Grove
Sandra A. Frazier	Edward & Helen Rhawn Fund	Delta Dental of Kentucky	United States Dept. of Agriculture

LUCY & WILLIAM CROGHAN SOCIETY \$2,500+

Mrs. Edward R. Dumesnil, Jr.	Alba B. Jennings	Mr. & Mrs. R. Douglas McFarland	Gwynne & Grover Potts
Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth F. Herrington III	Mr. & Mrs. Hunter G. Louis	Susan S. Means	Mrs. John G. Seiler, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. John G. Hoagland	Linda W. & James B. McArthur	George & Marti Plager	

CLARK FAMILY SOCIETY \$1,000+

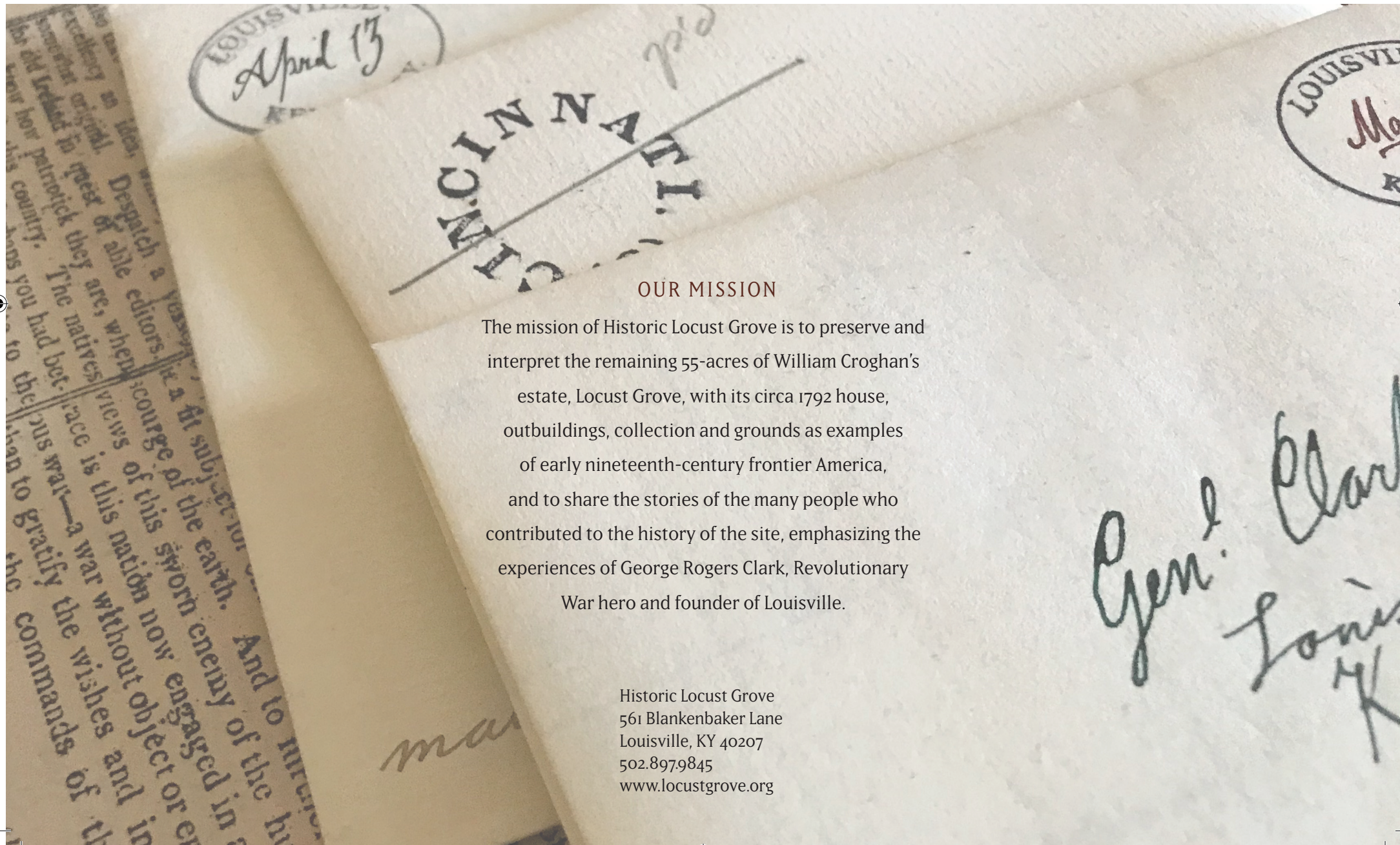
Mary J. Beale	Mary C. Hancock	Rosalind H. & Russell B. Scott, Jr.	Betsy & Harry Wall
Edith S. Bingham	Mrs. Carol Sharpe Harper	Mr. George E. Stablein	
Brooks & Marilyn Bower	Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Hundley	Mr. & Mrs. John H. Stites III	Louisville Tourism
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Mrs. Downey M. Gray, Jr.	Mr. & Mrs. Stewart Ogden	Gina Wainscott & Pat Hoehn	Whippoorwill Family Foundation/ James S. & Marianne Welch, Jr.
Bill & Amy Grover	Mrs. Barbara S. Roberts	John D. & Ruth G. Walker	

ILLINOIS REGIMENT SOCIETY \$250+

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Robert & Carol Carnighan	Karen J. Farrell-Howard	Karen J. Farrell-Howard	Scott & Margaret Luttmann			The Gardner Foundation



OUR MISSION

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.

Historic Locust Grove
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