



Historic Locust Grove  
Annual Report 2012

## From the President of Historic Locust Grove

This is my last annual letter to you. My term as Historic Locust Grove president will come to an end in June, just as Major William Croghan's Locust Grove begins a transition. The landmark structure, its dependencies and collection of fine furniture are secure, but the site's fifty-five acres are going under the microscope. The community has identified ideal grounds functions and museum activities, the board of directors and staff have created a challenging strategic plan, and an archaeological survey is about to advise us of potential areas of eighteenth century interest. Finally, and none too soon, some would say, the next two years will bring the development of the museum's first master plan.

We look to the future with both anticipation and nostalgia, conscious of moving forward on the shoulders of so many who have gone before. The recent death of Sam Thomas, Locust Grove's first director and permanent historian, reminds us of the importance of the development of leaders and resources to ensure that the museum's future reflects the high standards established during its first fifty years. It will be the responsibility of the next generation of leaders to understand and remember the purposeful direction connected to the names of Collis, Smith, Ogden, Abell, Tarrant, Robinson, VanWinkle, Thomas and so many others, and I am confident they will not disappoint.

Excluding capital projects, \$388,000 will be needed to operate Locust Grove this year. We will depend upon your generosity to provide \$60,000 of this through our annual campaign, and, with the exception of Metro's \$13,000 annual contribution, the museum will earn the remainder through a dizzying schedule of programs- both entertaining and educational. You will see examples of the busy year just concluded in the following pages, and learn more about what's on tap for the coming months and years.

It has been an honor to serve Locust Grove as both employee and volunteer. Your support has been unfailing and your enthusiasm rewarding, and I thank you. Please consider this wonderful museum again in your annual giving plan, and ensure another generation's participation in Louisville's earliest history through Locust Grove's exciting future.

Sincerely,

**Gwynne Potts, President**  
Historic Locust Grove, Inc.

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# From the Executive Director:

## Highlights of the Year

Dear Friends & Supporters,

The year we've just concluded at Locust Grove brought many milestones – our lengthy accreditation process was successfully completed, we held our 50th anniversary celebration marking our years as a public historic site, and our attendance was the highest in at least a decade.

We added new regular programs to appeal to adults and to families – the Historical Ball, small changing exhibits, the author's series of special book-related events, and specialized tours; and we improved existing ones, like our revitalized Candlelight Christmas, now including children's craft activities along with refreshments in the Visitors Center. We offered several new children's camps, had visits from Lucy Audubon and other costumed interpreters, exhibited local dollhouses, and we sold thousands and thousands of books at our Book Sale. During the year Locust Grove welcomed visitors from nearly every state and many countries (even Azerbaijan!).



The photographs on this page are the work of members of the Kentucky Junior Historical Society.

Our exhibit gallery has been upgraded, with new display cases to exhibit original artifacts including documents and family portraits. Next summer, we'll offer our first temporary exhibit in the historic cabin building, focusing on the War of 1812, Col. George Croghan, and the generation of the "children of the Revolution."

Through an extensive visitor survey conducted last year, we learned that

our visitors think that we're doing a great job – but we know that we can do even better. We'll take the insights from the survey and another survey of our members and use them to improve all of our programs, interpretation, and visitor services in the coming year.

Generous individual donors funded an idea that we're very excited to launch in 2013, the Voices Project. This experimental program will use audio in fixed and handheld devices to bring to life the stories of the many people who lived and worked at Locust Grove in the past, throughout the site - and even off-site. Watch for the first results, an exploration of the experiences of Kitt, Clark's enslaved manservant, this winter.

With our 55 acres and 13 buildings, preservation is a constant commitment. We repaired our 200+ year-old stone wall; then repaired it again. We began implementing the recommendations of a thorough engineering study for improvements to the systems and structure of the historic house, focusing on humidity control and structural reinforcement. This work will continue for the next year as we strengthen William Croghan's house to last for the next generations. And of course the woods, the fields, the gardens, and all parts of the grounds suffer the wear and tear of storms and our own





use of the site for programs, requiring care and renewal.

The reward is the place itself, and the people who come here to enjoy it. Last fall we collaborated with our young friends at the Kentucky Junior Historical Society to offer a photo contest for kids, seeking images of anything on the 55-acre grounds of Locust Grove. We got back much more than we expected – images of the ranks of tools hung on the wood shop wall, a burst of magenta clover, the poignant beauty of a dying tree's mottled trunk, ripening seedpods, views of green fields framed by windows, a brilliant yellow blur of flowers against old brick.

This new vision, reminding us of what's beautiful and true, is exactly what we need to revitalize the site for the future. Our planning for the grounds and its structures, beginning this fall with the support of the J. Graham Brown Foundation and Metro Louisville Neighborhood Development Funds, will include new vistas, new concepts, new opportunities. The archaeological survey supported by the Gheens Foundation, now wrapping up, will reveal secrets from under the ground, providing avenues for understanding aspects of the past reaching back to prehistory.

It's a continual process of exploration and renewal, with your support, past, present, and future!

**Carol Ely, Ph.D.**  
Executive Director



## Historic Locust Grove Staff July 2011-June 2012

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## Volunteers

Locust Grove could not operate without the time, love, and care of our group of about 120 active volunteers. In calendar year 2011 they logged more than 11,000 hours helping with events, as docents, running the front desk, and other tasks. Our volunteers also went on study expeditions this year, including a trip to Williamsburg, Virginia.



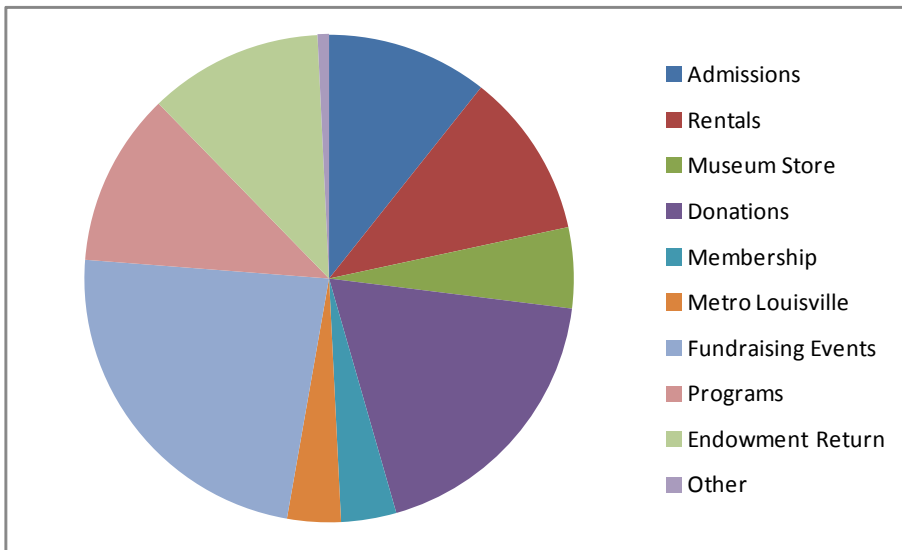
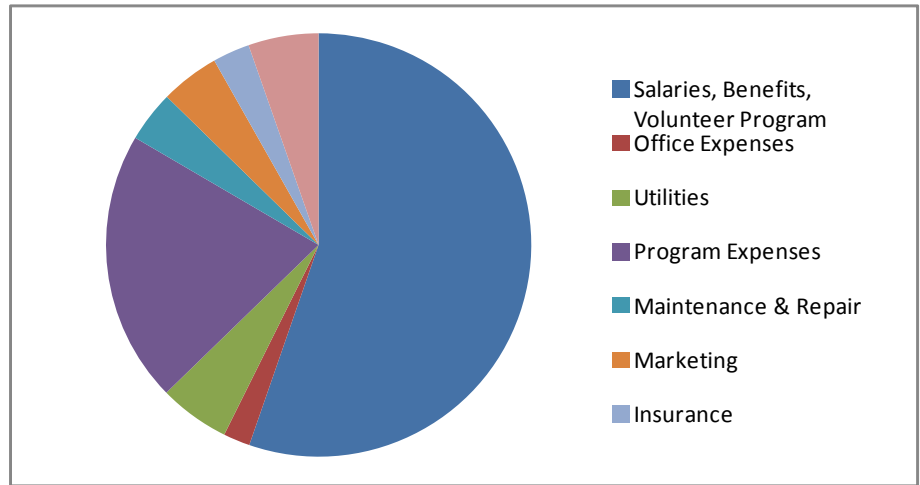
## Members

Our membership program, Friends of Locust Grove, had about 350 active participants, who received benefits including exclusive programs, discounts, and free admission to selected events. New member benefits are planned for 2012-13.



## The Year in Review: Expenditures

As with most museums, personnel costs dominate our expenses. Other costs include the expenses of running our programs, maintaining the buildings, collections, and grounds, and promoting our events and programs. Total expenditure this year for operations was **\$401,157**. Capital expenditures (not shown on chart) totaled **\$81,332**.



## The Year in Review: Revenue

Operating Revenue for FY12 was **\$411,056**, from a variety of sources as shown on the chart. **Your donations** make up a significant part of the total.

Audited Financial Statements will be available in early 2013; please write to us if you would like to receive a copy.

## Grants Awarded FY2012 include:

- ~ The Gheens Foundation
- ~ The J. Graham Brown Foundation
- ~ Heritage Preservation/ReCAP
- ~ The Hannah Foundation
- ~ Metro Council Neighborhood Development Funds
- ~ Metro Louisville External Agency Grant Funds

Installation of the new south entrance gate, design donated by Norman Berry, architect, and funded by a gift from the Hannah Foundation.





## The Year in Review: Major Programs 2011-12

### Locust Grove 50th Anniversary Celebration - July

In 1961 Locust Grove became a public historic site when it was purchased by the Commonwealth of Kentucky and Jefferson County. We celebrated with a 1960s style party, and free admission and free food for all. Attendance: approximately 400

### Jane Austen Festival - July

This event is held in cooperation with the Jane Austen Society of North America, Greater Louisville Chapter. Austen enthusiasts from around the country converge for two days of lectures, workshops, shopping, tea, and a Ball (held offsite); and while here, explore the site and learn about the Clarks and Croghans and the similarities and differences between Federal-era America and Regency England. The event has grown each year; revenue from the event helps to support our other programs. Attendance: 1700



### Family Picnic - August

This annual event was sponsored by Locust Grove alone this year, and offered chefs, local food vendors, music, and the chance to picnic in a convivial setting. Attendance: 324

### Antiques Markets - September & June

The Antiques Fair is offered in conjunction with the promoter Rod Lich, who contracts with the vendors. The event promotes knowledge of early furniture and decorative arts to an appreciative audience. Local antique shop sponsors helped to underwrite the event. Attendance: 2724



### Market Fair – October

The 18th Century Market Fair, in its eighth year, had a great program of activities and events, with some new entertainers and exciting battles. This event promotes our mission to present the history of the Clark/Croghan era in an exciting and accessible way. We offered a “school day” on Friday, with reenactors present. Attendance - a record: 2697

### Candlelight Christmas at Locust Grove – December

The House was decorated with greens and fruits, and our own crew of costumed interpreters presented a Clark/Croghan family gathering in 1809. Children’s craft activities in the Visitors Center were very popular. We continued offering a special Book Sale in the Auditorium in conjunction with the event. Attendance (up from the previous year): 614



### Historical Ball - January

Our first Historical Ball brought dancers dressed in the finery of the era of their choice - of course many favored the colonial and federal eras. Dancing, food and drink and general merriment. This will become an annual event. Attendance: 130

### Book Sales – March & August

The Book Sales continue to grow thanks to great donors of books and enthusiastic buyers. Book Sale funds support Locust Grove programs, especially education programs. Revenue (all book sales this year): \$23,843



### Spring Encampment/18th Century Thunder – April

This weekend event, sponsored with military re-enactors from the Illinois Regiment of Virginia, unfortunately had terrible weather. Attendance: 420

### Gardeners' Fair – May

This major fundraising event includes the annual Silent Auction and the Mothers' Day Brunch. The event brings attendees who share our enthusiasm for the gardens and grounds of Locust Grove. The three-day event was affected by rainy weather. The committee did a great job ensuring good publicity with excellent vendors. Attendance: 2531

### Chamber Music Series

A series of four concerts held through the fall and winter use the beautiful and intimate setting of the great parlor to present music of the period that might have been enjoyed by the people of Locust Grove. Concert-goers include series subscribers and individual ticket-purchasers.

### Lecture Series

Our monthly lecture series this year included topics such as politics and personalities in Revolutionary-era America. Attendees at our lectures are often Locust Grove members and volunteers, and the lectures create an atmosphere of learning and community. Ten lectures were held this year.

### Camps

Summer camps are a regular feature of summer at Locust Grove. Our Woodworking Camp offers sessions for younger and older campers, and our Pioneer Camp offers varied activities to enthusiastic campers; this year we added a Nature Camp (with Jefferson Memorial Forest), a Book Arts Camp, and a Junior Re-enactor Camp.

### Workshops, Special Tours & Other Programs

Bourbon Red Turkey Thanksgiving - cooking with Mark Williams

"Cause of Death Tour"

Naturalization Ceremony - November - 73 new Americans from 34 countries became citizens at Locust Grove

"Woods Tour"

"Little Mansions" Dollhouses Exhibit with the Louisville Miniatures Society

### School Programs

School visits were down somewhat this year as schools struggled with budget cuts for field trips. A joint program with the Frazier Museum provided students with a day-long focus on the American Revolution at the two sites. School attendance: 3,192



## Acquisitions & Collections

2011-2012

It was a great thrill to receive the miniature portrait of Colonel George Croghan, second son of William and Lucy Croghan, pictured here, particularly since he is the focus of our War of 1812-related programming for the coming year. The portrait was the gift of George Wheaton, a descendent of the family, who also presented Locust Grove with a silver pitcher awarded to Serena Livingston Croghan, George's wife, for her skill in embroidery. These objects join other donations from the Wheaton family in the collection of Locust Grove. The miniature will be displayed along with other family portraits in a new display case in the gallery. The portraits will be rotated on and off display to preserve them.

We were also delighted to receive as a gift a 1789 land indenture document granting five hundred acres in



Clark's grant, in Clark County, Indiana, to William Harrod as a payment for his Revolutionary War military service in the Illinois Regiment of Virginia commanded by George Rogers Clark. The document was signed by George Rogers Clark, William Clark, Alexander Breckinridge, William Croghan, and others. The document was donated by members of the modern re-enactor organization, the Illinois Regiment of Virginia, in honor of the original founder of the Regiment, General George Rogers

Clark. This document will be displayed in rotation with other documents in our collection in a new display case in the hallway between the main exhibit gallery and the restored cabin exhibits.

Other smaller acquisitions round out the portrayal of daily life at William Croghan's Locust Grove.



## Grounds & Preservation

Checklist 2011-2012

- Entrance Gate
- Wood Shop
- House porch roof
- House HVAC
- Stone Wall repairs



## Attendance 2011-12

	Adults	Groups	Students	Gallery	Free	Events	Total
July	288	34	79	5	111	2236	2753
August	363	83	88	8	139	1663	2344
Sept.	266	128	68	3	48	1238	1749
Oct.	294	78	506	1	129	2875	3883
Nov.	238	113	521	0	80	524	1476
Dec.	108	54	68	0	22	821	1073
Jan.	82	0	10	0	14	209	365
Feb.	125	40	14	161	45	231	624
March	231	69	250	5	28	1798	2381
April	276	82	650	0	82	551	1641
May	400	116	744	2	139	2591	4092
June	370	251	194	2	119	1902	2838
<b>Total</b>	<b>3041</b>	<b>1048</b>	<b>3192</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>956</b>	<b>16,639</b>	<b>25,219</b>

Compare to 2010-11: 24,003

**This past year we had the highest attendance in the past decade.** Two-thirds of our attendance came from special events. This year for the first time we started tracking numbers of guests at rental events. We estimate that approximately 5,715 people came here for rental events.

"Adults" includes walk-in visitors for tours; "Free" includes member visits, donated visits, and house tours during rental events; "Special" events includes all scheduled programs, classes, and other events. The site also hosts countless recreational visitors to the grounds and gardens, thousands of attendees at rental events, and thousands of virtual visitors to our website.

## Comparative Attendance - 2006-2012

	FY06	FY07	FY08	FY09	FY10	FY11	FY12
Adults	2,783	2,989	2,818	2,944	3,285	3,245	3041
Groups	1,601	700	1,078	908	1,234	1,368	1048
Students.	5,241	4,449	4,949	4,284	4,173	3,500	3192
Gallery				76	41	37	187
Free	525	1,558	1,476	908	1,167	1,039	956
Events	10,117	13,422	11,738	14,378	15,162	14,814	16,639
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>20,267</b>	<b>23,148</b>	<b>22,050</b>	<b>23,498</b>	<b>25,082</b>	<b>24,003</b>	<b>25,219</b>





# Annual Fund & Friends Societies

2011-2012

## The George Rogers Clark Society

(\$5,000+)

Nancy W. Lee  
Mr. & Mrs. Samuel Miller  
Donald & Ann Roth  
Dr. & Mrs. B. Preston Thomas

## The Lucy & William Croghan Society

(\$2,500+)

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## The Clark Family Society

(\$1,000+)

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## The Illinois Regiment Society

(\$250+)

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## Mission Statement

*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.*

*Values: We base everything we do on best practices in the museum profession; on best practices in historic preservation and conservation and on the best available research in every field that we interpret. We aim to bring scholarly accuracy and insight to a popular audience. Locust Grove will be a destination site for visitors, accessible and popular with a wide range of people.*

*Vision: Our goal is to become the finest historic site in our region, attracting a national, regional, and local audience. We will interpret the site as a place to come to experience and understand farm life in early Kentucky, as it was for the Croghans and Clarks, their dependents, and their neighbors. Visitors will come away with a new understanding and appreciation of our nation's early history and the people who made it. Visitors will become advocates for the site and "friends" of Locust Grove.*



## Locust Grove

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Louisville, Kentucky 40207  
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[www.locustgrove.org](http://www.locustgrove.org)