

GROVE GAZETTE

Historic Locust Grove

561 Blankenbaker Lane

Louisville, KY 40207

(502) 897-9845

www.locustgrove.org



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David Kremer – Spirit Award Winner



David Kremer began volunteering at Locust Grove in the summer of 2002 — a place he'd been in awe of, even as a boy.

He's very interested in pre-Civil War plantation homes, traveling to hundreds of these houses in the Carolinas, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana. He photographed many of them in the 1970s in the hope of creating a book focused on the architectural details of these grand homes.

While Locust Grove is not as large as many of those homes, David says that, "The grandeur of Locust Grove is *when* it was built. It was really a grand home of its time." This appreciation for Locust Grove led him here after his retirement.

David was involved in a number of businesses over the years. His last job before retirement was at the Animal Care Society on Westport Road — a no-kill shelter that places homeless animals.

As a docent, David loves sharing the history of Locust Grove with visitors. He has embraced his volunteer work with a passion — accruing an astounding number of hours in almost five years.

In 2004, he was recognized for having the most volunteer hours for the year.

You may have seen David at the gate during our special events — welcoming folks to the site, and taking their admission money all weekend long.

David has both Wednesday and Friday morning shifts and is always willing to help with school tours for our many fourth graders and older. He loves making history understandable and entertaining for our guests.

His Friday morning partner, **Patricia Klinck**, says that David has a wry sense of humor and a big heart. "He's cooperative and great fun as a partner, and is totally committed to the mission of Historic Locust Grove."

We thank David for his dedication to sharing the history of Locust Grove with so many school children and visitors.



Yearly Events

Mark Your Calendars!

Afternoon Lecture Series

1:00 p.m. — the first Wednesday of the month (except January and May).

Used Book Sale

Great book bargains to support Locust Grove's programs — held the second weekend in March.

'18th Century Thunder'

Our Revolutionary War Encampment — held the Saturday and Sunday of "Thunder Weekend" in April.

Gardeners' Fair

Friday, Saturday, Sunday — held the second weekend in May.

Mothers' Day Brunch

Sunday during the Gardeners' Fair. *Reservations required.*

Antiques Markets

Held on the last Sundays in June and in September.

18th Century Market Fair

Held Saturday and Sunday on the last weekend in October.

Holiday Candlelight Tours

Costumed interpreters from 1820 in the house and kitchen on the second weekend in December.

GROVE GAZETTE

Board Supports Preserving HLG 'Neighborhood'

Because of recent proposed developments in the neighborhoods around the site, the Board of Historic Locust Grove passed the following resolution:

8 March 2007

Resolved —

... That Historic Locust Grove is committed to preserving the suburban and park elements that now characterize the 692 acres once known as William Croghan's *Locust Grove* farm;

... That Historic Locust Grove will continue to advocate environmental protections for wildlife and native plants indigenous to *Locust Grove* and necessary for the creation of passive education and recreation, and to ensure the historic view shed connecting the National Historic Landmark to the Ohio River;

... That Historic Locust Grove will partner with neighborhood associations that share common goals with the organization, and to that end will make the site available to these organizations for meeting purposes, will liaison with local authorities to ensure archaeological research is conducted prior to construction within the former *Locust Grove*, and will represent these interests to the public to the degree that its contract with Louisville Metro reasonably will permit.

— HLG Board of Directors

From The Director's Desk

Carol Ely, PhD., Executive Director

How do we know how life was lived at Locust Grove in 1795? 1807? 1836? What was on the walls? Paint? Paper? Panelling? Who slept in what room?

How do we decide what to show to the public, when there is so much that we don't know?

Those of us who work in historic house museums wrestle with these questions every day. We spend a lot of time with "probably," "maybe," and "we think."

When Locust Grove was restored in the 1960s, the architects and the Board had access to altered and hard-to-interpret features of the building itself (physical evidence) and accounts and stories of the past owners and the neighbors (oral testimony).

They sent caretaker **Samuel Thomas** to the archives (written evidence), and they hired archeologists to dig in the ground around the known buildings (more difficult-to-interpret physical evidence).

From these sources, along with an understanding of local history and Kentucky furniture and design of the period, they developed an interpretation of how the Croghans used the House and grounds. From this, they created a showcase that focused on the era before 1821, when William and Lucy Croghan headed the household.

Over the years, we're continually looking at all our assumptions. With **Sam Thomas'** and **Gwynne Potts'** research for

their 2006 book [*see excerpt on Page 3*], we've learned much more — about the family through details of their letters, about the property through additional archeological exploration, and about early Kentucky life and culture through research at other sites throughout the state.

Today, we also ask different questions about Locust Grove and those who lived and worked there.

How did Lucy organize her day? Where was William's office after George came to live with the family? Did they follow the French influence in design, as their wallpaper suggests?

What crops and other items did they sell from the farm? Did son John keep his parents' furniture and china, or did he redecorate when he inherited the house?

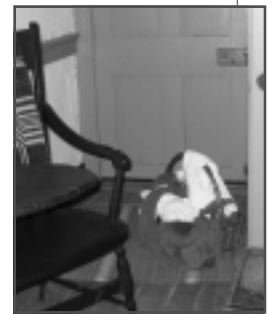
Who did the laundry, and where? Where did the slaves sleep? Did they live as families, or were they scattered through the property near their work assignments? What did *they* own?

We're now analyzing and speculating all over again. In the coming months, you'll see our research and new ideas appearing as small changes in the house and outbuildings and in the stories that our docents tell.

For instance, in the first-floor room that we've assigned to General Clark, the General is receiving visitors. They've pulled chairs up to his bed. He was reading when they arrived, and his spectacles are folded on a book on his bed.



In the room across the hall, the laundress, a slave woman, has left a basket of soiled clothes near the side door.



We're making Locust Grove a place where we can see how these real people once spent their days — eating, learning, sewing, mapping the continent, arguing about politics, telling stories, dying, giving birth, entertaining guests, ... and washing the laundry.

Carol Ely

Grove Gazette is published quarterly by Historic Locust Grove, Inc. for members, volunteers and friends of Historic Locust Grove. © 2007

561 Blankenbaker Lane
Louisville, KY 40207
(502) 897-9845
(502) 896-2433
www.locustgrove.org

The mission of Historic Locust Grove, Inc. is to preserve and interpret the 55-acre site, with its circa 1790 house and out-buildings, the collection, and the gardens, as an example of early 19th Century frontier America.

It is also our mission to share the stories of the many people who contributed to the history of Locust Grove, emphasizing the life of General George Rogers Clark, Revolutionary War hero and founder of Louisville.

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Grove Gazette

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Gwynne Tuell Potts – 2007 Winner of the Audrey Pilkington Lifetime Achievement Award

You never know where a tour of Locust Grove might take you. For **Gwynne Potts**, it started a journey of dedication to Locust Grove that continues today.

She and her mother came for a tour in 1985 and Gwynne thought it might be nice to get involved. So she started working in the museum store. Six months later, she found herself hired as the executive director.

"There were only five of us on staff," she said, "three for the weekend, the maintenance man, and me." So she begged the woman who was coordinating the volunteers to come in every day while Gwynne "figured out how to be the executive director and what should be in a program director's position description."

That volunteer coordinator was **Audrey Pilkington**, for whom this highest Locust Grove volunteer honor is named.

"We hired our first program director a few months later; and soon after, Audrey retired to relative sanity with her husband."

As one of the volunteers wrote in his nomination letter, "In her years as Locust Grove's executive director, Gwynne was known for hard work and long hours. She did a lot of 'volunteer' work, even while serving as a paid member of the staff."

She officially retired as executive director in 1994, but that hasn't stopped Gwynne's involvement in Historic Locust Grove. Some of her accomplishments during her 22 years here include:

- ◆ Spearheading fundraising for the Visitors' Center,
- ◆ Organizing the 1990 Clark Family Reunion during Locust Grove's bicentennial event,



- ◆ Serving on the Board of Directors, currently on the Executive Committee as Secretary,
- ◆ Serving on other committees: Chamber Music, Docent Review, Exhibits, Collections and Acquisitions,
- ◆ Co-Chairing Locust Grove's 2006 Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Committee,
- ◆ Serving as volunteer curator, focusing on upkeep of collections and training of other volunteer curators,
- ◆ Donating her time, research expertise, and creativity to co-author *George Rogers Clark & Locust Grove*.

Gwynne also serves as chair of another beloved foundation for the Blackacre State Nature Preserve in Louisville.

"Other than getting hugs and kisses from my grandkids, I can't think of anything better than winning this award," said Gwynne, with a huge smile.

Beautiful Music, Beautiful Setting



Mirabel String Quartet in February 2007



Joan Parsley in April 2007

In April, the finale of Locust Grove's 2006-2007 Chamber Music Concert Series celebrated the 200th birthday of Locust Grove's Broadwood fortepiano. Other concerts this season included Beethoven and Mozart played on authentic period instruments, a concert of baroque music, and a joyful holiday program.

These charming concerts in the ballroom are a rare opportunity to enjoy music in much the same style as the Clarks and Croghans would have in the early 1800s.

From: 'George Rogers Clark and Locust Grove'
by Gwynne Tuell Potts and Samuel Thomas

Estate Auction Gives Clues To Croghan Family Lifestyle

Soon after St. George Croghan, son of Lucy and William's son George and his wife Serena Croghan, inherited Locust Grove in 1849, he ordered the executors to liquidate the estate, and the family possessions that remained at Locust Grove were auctioned.

By reviewing the items in that auction, we're able to create a better picture of what life was like at Locust Grove — which helps us clarify today's interpretation for our visitors.

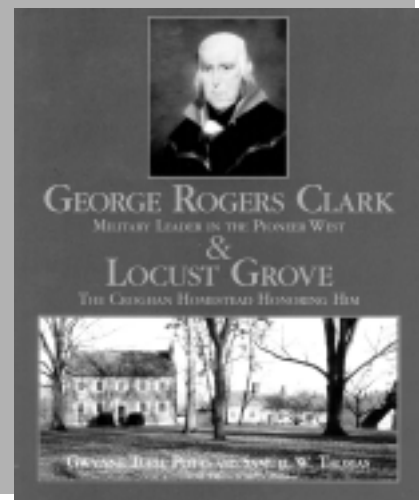
A silver service for twelve was sold, as were white and gold "French" plates, yellow cups and saucers and white stoneware, glass decanters, champagne, and wine glasses. Five post beds, a lounge, and a "French" daybed, each fitted with feather mattresses and pillows, were awarded to the highest bidder. At day's end, two mahogany beds proved the most valuable pieces of furniture. Any letters and books found in two bookcases, a secretary, and a writing desk were discarded.

Examinations of the probate and subsequent sale inventories, however, offer insight into the living conditions at Locust Grove during John Croghan's

proprietorship and probably before. Family and guests dined at a cherry table surrounded by 14 gilded chairs painted brown. Eight mahogany chairs stood in the parlor, where two card tables, a lady's work table and a music box were placed among armchairs and a sofa.

From his first-floor bedroom, which also had served his mother late in her life, the doctor could hear the chime of a hallway case clock and see the glow of the entry's chandelier. He slept in a single bed, his room furnished with a chest of drawers, two presses, and a looking glass. In the adjacent bathroom he had added for his mother were a wash stand, basin, and bathing tub.

Each of the four corner rooms of the second story had two windows, with the exception of the ballroom, that had four. White window curtains were hung in that room, which had two beds, foot stools, washstands, and basins crowded by a toilet and cherry wardrobe. The northwest room, furnished with a large sofa, two mirrors, rocking chair, and bedstead, was decorated with chintz curtains. Two bedsteads were placed in the northeast room, which contained the only bed curtains and bedroom armchair noted in the inventory. Footstools, a table, washstand, and curtains remained in the room, as did "one carpet made at L.



This new book — a great read for any history buff — is available at Locust Grove's Museum Store and from our website at www.locustgrove.org.

Grove"... A small room created by the division of the ballroom was empty....

The art collection at Locust Grove was eclectic. A portrait of actress Mlle. Mars was auctioned with those of "Mr. and Mrs. Hancock," "Grandfather and Mother," and Mary Croghan. A painting of The Lord's Supper and an oil portrait of a "fortune teller" were among the estate's pictures, as were eight drawings of Mammoth Cave and an engraving of George Washington.

The kitchen was furnished with a table and five chairs, and contained a safe, two ovens, and the expected variety of skillets, griddles, kettles, pots, and buckets. Four coffee pots suggested the doctor's taste. Nine horses remained at Locust Grove, including two called Charlie and Albert.... St. George Croghan netted \$562 from the sale.

Excerpt from Pages 111–112. Authors: Gwynne Tuell Potts and Samuel Thomas.

Our Volunteers Are Fabulous

Aileen Novick, Program Director

In 2006, Locust Grove's fabulous volunteers put in 12,404.25 hours of service — and we still have some who do not record their hours!

Volunteers got off to a busy start in January with a new school program — Work & Play. Many of the youngsters who participated in this program received free transportation and admission, thanks in large part to proceeds from our Used Book Sale. That book sale was successful, thanks to our volunteers.

Volunteers do many tasks — welcoming guests, baking for lectures, running booths, giving tours, grilling hot dogs, rolling candles, collecting admissions, interpreting characters, picking up trash, cleaning and cataloging collections items, stacking wood, weeding gardens, cooking over the hearth, demonstrating weaving and carpentry, and much more.

These energetic folks stayed busy all year, working on our lecture series, school tours, Spring Encampment, Gardeners' Fair, two Antiques Fairs, three summer camps, a

production of The Slave Wedding, our 18th Century Market Fair, a series of incredible Lewis and

Clark Bicentennial events, and our annual Candlelight Tours.

Locust Grove could not possibly do all these things without our volunteers. We'd love to have you join us!



Docent Jane Smith at Pioneer Camp.

New Book Available Now

Louisvillian and local historian **Lynn Renau** has a new book: *So Close from Home: The Legacy of Brownsboro Road*. On sale now at the Museum Store, \$30.

2007 AFTERNOON LECTURE SERIES

The theme of this year's series is "They Came to Locust Grove: Important Visitors to the Home." The Education Committee gives many thanks to volunteer Melzie Wilson for inspiring this year's lecture series title with her recently published book, "They Came to Locust Grove."

Lectures are held on the first Wednesday of each month, except for January and May. This year, because the Fourth of July holiday falls on the first Wednesday, the July lecture will be on Wednesday, July 11, 2007.

Desserts and coffee are served at 1:00 p.m., with the lecture immediately following. Admission is \$5, or \$3 for Friends of Locust Grove.

CASSIUS CLAY

Wednesday, June 6

Jacob Lee of the Filson Historical Society's Special Collections talks about Cassius Clay, who engaged in a duel with Robert Wickliffe, Jr. near the mill at Locust Grove in 1841. Cassius Clay was a noted abolitionist and lively historical character.

RACHEL JACKSON

Wednesday, July 11

Ann Toplovich, executive director of the Tennessee Historical Society and author of an upcoming book on Rachel Jackson, introduces us to Mrs. Jackson and her time in Louisville. Rachel Jackson caused quite a stir in Louisville when she visited with her husband, Andrew, in 1824. They were guests of the family at a dinner at Locust Grove.

MARQUIS DE LAFAYETTE

Wednesday, August 1

Sara Elliott, director of Liberty Hall Historic Site in Frankfort, Ky., brings insights about the Marquis de Lafayette and his time in Kentucky.

This famous Frenchman who assisted the colonists in the Revolutionary War had planned to stop at Locust Grove during his travels, but never made it here.



Photo from www.archives.gov.

TO BE ANNOUNCED

Wednesday, September 5

GARDENERS' FAIR AND SILENT AUCTION

Friday through Sunday, May 11, 12, and 13
10:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.

Revel in the colorful plants, fragrant herbs, garden tools, flower-themed accessories, handcrafted items, and the hundreds of other creative ideas offered by the 70 local and regional garden suppliers and other vendors coming to this year's Gardeners' Fair.

On Saturday at 11:30 a.m., gardening expert **Richard Weber**, founder and owner of Springhouse Gardens in Nicholasville, Ky., will talk about "Great Plants for Kentucky Gardens."

Through 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, you may enter bids on a wide array of items in our Silent Auction. Look for gifts from many of our vendors and other merchants in the area. We'll have antiques,

quilts, handmade items, Kentucky-made goods, sports memorabilia, handcrafted items, collectibles, and much more.



Admission, which includes a tour of Historic Locust Grove, is \$5 for adults; \$3 for children aged 6 to 12; free for children 5 and under. All proceeds from this event support the continuing operation and preservation of this historic property.

MOTHER'S DAY BRUNCH

Sunday, May 13

Seatings at 10:00 a.m., Noon,
and 2:00 p.m.

This delicious brunch catered by the Bristol Café is one of the most popular events at our annual Gardeners' Fair.

Because of the brunch's great popularity and limited space, this event sells out quickly.



But there may be reservations still available. Please call (502) 897-9845 as soon as possible. Costs are: \$25 for adults, \$10 for children from 3-12, and free for children 2 and under. Paid reservations are required.



SUMMER CAMPS

Sign-ups have started and space is limited.
Call today to reserve your child's place in history!

WOODWORKING CAMP

June 11–15

For ages 11–13 —

9:30 a.m.–11:30 a.m.

For ages 7–10 —

12:30 p.m.–2:30 p.m.

Locust Grove woodworkers will lead campers in learning the basics of woodworking. Campers will learn about types of wood, historic and modern woodworking tools, and they will complete a project to take home. \$75 per camper. Please call (502) 897-9845 to register.



Woodworking Campers show off the birdhouses they made themselves.

JUNIOR DOCENT CAMP

June 18–22

9:00 a.m.–12 Noon

For ages 11–14

Campers will look at how museums work and how they present history to the public and care for their collections of artifacts. This is a hands-on program where campers participate in activities such as creating a meal in our 19th century kitchen, trying their hand at early surveying techniques, bringing historic characters to life through costumes and first-person interpretation. \$80 per camper. Please call (502) 897-9845 to register.



A Junior Docent Camper interprets General Clark.

PIONEER CAMP

July 9–13

9:00 a.m.–12 Noon

For ages 7–10

This exciting camp provides a wonderful sampler of early pioneer life. Students participate in crafts such as weaving, writing with quills, and candle-making. They are part of activities such as storytelling, historic games, and nature walks. Cost: \$80 per camper. Please call (502) 897-9845 to register.



Campers are delighted with their Pioneer Camp Treasure Boxes.

SUMMER AND FALL ANTIQUES MARKETS

Sunday, June 24, 10:00 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

Sunday, September 30, 10:00 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

These annual Antiques Markets feature professional dealers from the South and Midwest displaying their wares on the lawn at Historic Locust Grove. In addition to American country antiques, the show features formal furniture, jewelry and silver.

Admission is \$6 for adults, \$3 for children 6–12, free for kids 5 and under, and includes tours of the historic house. Concessions are available. Proceeds support the continued operation and preservation of Historic Locust Grove.



Third Annual Book Sale Nets \$10,000+

When the doors opened for members at the Friday night preview, some 13,000 books were organized and ready for sale. When the doors closed on Sunday afternoon, about



1,100 remained on mostly empty tables. It was the most successful Used Book Sale to date.

Volunteers sorted an unprecedented and generous "in-pouring" of book donations — everything from Kentucky cookbooks to regimental histories to mysteries to children's favorites to best-sellers. Most bizarre? A pop-up book of phobias for grownups. Most unusual? A guide to careers in mortuary science.

Locust Grove gives a big thank-you to all our volunteers, especially to committee chair Lynn Boone, and to all the book donors who made the sale possible. We also thank book appraiser Charles Bartman, who gave expert advice and offered his appraisal services to book sale visitors. (Mr. Bartman's own book sale, which in part benefits Locust Grove, will be held this year, August 18–19.)

We're now accepting books for next year's sale — used hardcover and paperback books in good condition, DVDs, CDs, audio books, VHS and cassette tapes; travel pamphlets and maps. We're very interested in Kentucky-related items. And, of course, all donations are tax-deductible.

From The Garden

Sarah Dickerson Sutherland,
Locust Grove Gardener

Spring has returned to Locust Grove's gardens! And in spite of Mother Nature's "Freeze and Thaw" weather, the grounds are waking up.

New garden volunteers **Dave Gay** and **Eddie Arnold** have been repairing the stone edging around the herb garden and working on the four "quad" gardens and our cutting beds.

New garden volunteer **Nancy Stopher** is fast becoming an expert with fig cuttings and is a great weeder.

We now have a number of new trees in our "east" orchard (on the hill beside the icehouse) — a Moorpark apricot, a Green Gage plum, a Seckel pear, a Sugar pear, and a Montmorency cherry.

Between the smokehouse and icehouse is a large redbud, donated in memory of **Norma McNutt** by her quilting friends.

Please stop by Locust Grove's booth in the Gardeners' Fair. We'll be selling heritage plants and seeds, and we'll also be displaying some of the original art that volunteer **Thelma Herweh** has painted for our seed packets over the years.

Matted copies of some of Thelma's watercolors are available for purchase in Locust Grove's Museum Store.



This is a copy of Thelma's watercolor that appears on a packet of Locust Grove Petunia Seeds.

Many Thanks To Our Recent Donors!

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

Thanks to the following people for their most recent donations.

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To donate in honor of or in memory of a person, please send a note, along with your donation to:

**Carol Ely, Executive Director
Historic Locust Grove
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Please include where and to whom you would like us to acknowledge your donation.

All donations are tax-deductible.

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But, for Locust Grove to get credit, you must enter through the link posted on our web page before you start shopping at the online merchants.

The link is at the lower right-hand corner of our home page at <www.locustgrove.org>, as well as on the store page. Unless you choose to register at the site, your donation is anonymous.

It's easy. It costs you nothing. And it's great for Locust Grove!



Friends of Locust Grove

Enrollment/Renewal – January 1, through March 31, 2007

Our "Friends of Historic Locust Grove" membership program began in January 2002. We now have more than 400 individual and family members.

A hearty "thank you" to all of these people who joined or renewed their memberships from January 1, through March 31, 2007, and to all of our longtime "Friends of Locust Grove"!

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Did You Know?

... that George Rogers Clark's favorite book was *The Spectator* — a circa 1770 compilation of the 1711-12 and 1714 daily journal edited (and mostly written) by Richard Steele and Joseph Addison in London.



The purpose of *The Spectator* was "to enliven morality with wit, and to temper wit with morality." It posed as a fictional club whose members expressed the writers' ideas about society.

The Spectator

established the pattern for the periodical in the 18th century, and helped create a receptive public for novelists.

Articles offered political and social satire from different perspectives. They were intended to give readers educated "talking points," and advice on how to carry on conversations in a polite way.

Some of the thoughts found in *The Spectator* seem as true today as they were nearly 300 years ago:

- ◆ "The great essentials for happiness in this life are something to do, something to love and something to hope for."
- ◆ "Admiration is a very short-lived passion that immediately decays upon growing familiar with its object."
- ◆ "A man must be both stupid and uncharitable who believes there is no virtue or truth but on his own side."

Historic Locust Grove has two of the seven volumes of *The Spectator* in its collection. And now you know.

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