

GROVE GAZETTE

Historic Locust Grove

561 Blankenbaker Lane

Louisville, KY 40207

(502) 897-9845

www.locustgrove.org



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Martin Schmidt Spirit Award Winner



To many Locust Grove visitors, **Martin Schmidt** is better known as William Croghan. That's because he portrayed the owner and builder of Locust Grove for nearly two decades.

But to everyone at Locust Grove, he's our favorite supporter, docent, conscience, benefactor, board member, and friend. That's why he's this quarter's Spirit Award winner.

Though retired from active costumed interpreting and

docent duties, Martin can always be found at our events and remains an active member of Historic Locust Grove's Board of Advisors.

Martin was 2 years old when his parents and sister Kate moved to Kentucky from Missouri. His father was a salesman and investor in Coca-Cola, eventually owning the bottling franchise for this region.

Martin graduated from Tulane University and then served as a Naval Supplies Officer during World War II. He returned to Kentucky to join his family's soft drink business, rising to president of Coca-Cola in Kentucky.

After a few years, he left the business world to return to school to become a librarian. This second career took him first to the Louisville Free Public

Library, where he ran the Kentucky Room for several years. Then he moved to the Filson Historical Society, first as librarian and then for many more years as the Filson's Director.

Martin began volunteering at Locust Grove in 1984 at the suggestion of his wife, Peggy, who was a garden volunteer. She thought he "might like it."

Indeed, he did — and still does. In recognition of his strong support, Historic Locust Grove named the exhibit gallery in his honor in 2005 — now hosting the new exhibit, *A Country Worth Defending*, which opened in July.

Martin is a diehard Green Wave (Tulane) fan and Rotary Club member. And several years ago, the Kentucky Historical Society also honored Martin Schmidt by naming its library for him.

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 & Auction

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 in the house and out-buildings on Friday and Saturday in early December.

GROVE GAZETTE

Historic Locust Grove

From The Director's Desk

Carol Ely, Ph.D., Executive Director

First, the Gallery . . .

For the past year, we've focused on the new – the expansion of our Visitors Center gallery and offices, and the creation of our new exhibit, *A Country Worth Defending: Land and Family in Early Kentucky*. It's open, it's wonderful, please come!

. . . And Now, The House!

And, now, we'll be taking a new look at our oldest and most important feature, the star of the show — the 1790s mansion house built by William and Lucy Croghan.

The classic Georgian structure (with a few unique variations that give it character) was modified through the years by the Croghans themselves, by their children, and by subsequent owners who updated the décor while making only a few changes to the structure.

The 1960s restoration used the best available evidence and ideas to recreate the earliest version of the house's history. That's the Locust Grove that you see today. But would William and Lucy Croghan recognize it?

Now, with a foundation grant, we are re-examining everything we know and everything we think we know about the house — how it was decorated, furnished, and used by the Croghan family.

We're looking at physical evidence, documentary evidence, old letters, store accounts, and pre-restoration photographs. Paint and finish expert **Matthew Mosca** has taken samples from the woodwork and plaster in each room, and his analysis of these findings is expected this fall.

If you visit the house right now, you'll see some of the revealed

paint evidence for yourself. There are exposed patches of older paint throughout the rooms of the house. You might even spot the underlayers and the earlier wall colors.

Some of the discoveries are intriguing, including glimpses at the colors of the original walls and the kinds of woods used throughout the house. It's a fascinating process and we're all anticipating new insights about our beloved mansion.

A committee of experts from inside and outside Locust Grove will sift through the evidence this winter. It will recommend any changes that should be made to allow the house to truly reflect the period of the 1790s and the design choices of the Croghan family.

Two New Board Members

Historic Locust Grove is delighted to welcome our newest board members: **Gray Friedberg Isaacs** and **Michael Tierney**.

Gray Isaacs is President of Isaacs & Isaacs Antiques. She has been dealing in silver, antiques, and decorative arts for the last 20 years. She and her husband own the store, which specializes in fine English and Continental antiques from the 17th, 18th, and 19th centuries. Gray has been a member of the Appraisers Association of America for many years.



Paint and finish expert Matthew Mosca carefully removes layers of paint to reveal original finishes.

Here in Louisville, Gray also is involved in Junior League, Metro United Way, and actively supports environmental causes. And, she was the founder of the store at the Louisville Zoo.

Michael Tierney has created marketing and public relations campaigns for some of the country's most popular brands over the past two decades.

Michael is Chief Operating Officer for Tandem Public Relations and Marketing. This Louisville firm creates, develops and implements creative marketing strategies and services for local and national firms.

Before joining Tandem, Michael spent 10 years at KFC Corp., holding a variety of public relations and marketing posts. Michael was a national spokesperson for the industry and earned a reputation for creative and distinctive product programs and publicity.

We're delighted to welcome these two high-achievers to our board and look forward to the expertise and ingenuity they will bring to Historic Locust Grove.

Carol Ely

Start Saving Books Now!



Our incredibly popular Used Book Sale will be held **March 13-15, 2009**. We need your books to make the sale a success!

Proceeds from the sale support Locust Grove's education and preservation programs.

All donations are tax-deductible; ask for a tax receipt when you drop off your books at the Visitors Center.

Grove Gazette is published quarterly by Historic Locust Grove, Inc. for members, volunteers and friends of Historic Locust Grove. © 2008

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 the city of Louisville.

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Getting To Know Locust Grove's Costumed Interpreters

Cheryl Adkisson is Eleanor Clark Temple



Who is Eleanor and how long have you been portraying her?

This Candlelight Tour will mark the fifth year for me as Eleanor Clark Temple. She is the oldest daughter of Jonathan and Sara Hite Clark. Jonathan Clark is Lucy Clark Croghan's eldest brother, so she's Lucy's niece.

She married the Reverend Benjamin Temple who was a minister and merchant in the south-central part of Kentucky, in what are now Logan and Warren counties. They own the family estate of Federal Grove in Russellville, moving there after living for several years in a log cabin in Warren County.

How did you become involved in costumed interpreting and why?

My husband, Ron, and I experienced the Candlelight Tours in 2003 and were delighted that one of our students and her parents were participating as costumed interpreters. We've always loved the way interpreters bring history alive in Williamsburg,

and here was the same thing happening at Locust Grove! We decided then and there to become a part of it all.

How did you select Eleanor as the one to portray?

It just fell into place. The woman who had been portraying Eleanor had just left, and I was close to the age Eleanor would have been in 1820. It was an easy fit.

Plus, my real-life husband could portray my historical husband. This made our first appearances as interpreters a bit more comfortable.

Actually, this is a family affair for us. Our two children have portrayed some of the young Clark cousins, and now our daughter is interpreting Eleanor and Benjamin's daughter.

What are some of the characteristics of Eleanor?

Eleanor (or "Nelly") is described as "a most elegant and dignified lady" in a newspaper article by a friend of the family. By 1820, Eleanor would have given birth to nine children, two of whom died in infancy.

How do you make Eleanor come to life?

Even though in real life I am the mother of only two and not nine, I try to put myself in Eleanor's place as to the things she is dealing with as a mother.

We also take every opportunity to visit historical sites such as Williamsburg. I carefully observe interpreters' behaviors and conversations to give me better insight into the language and culture of the era.

And now, after more than eight days without power because of Hurricane Ike, I might be able to "return to the 19th century" a bit more accurately! I now have a good idea of how difficult it was to live by candlelight and provide three meals a day while cooking over an open fire.

How do you research your character?

I was *very* fortunate. The interpreter before me had prepared a wonderful notebook which I have used, over and over.

I enjoy costumed interpretation so much that I also portray four historical characters at South Oldham Middle School for my husband's American history classes — from an indentured servant in Jamestown to Harriet Beecher Stowe.

What makes all this costumed interpreting worth the time?

It's just great fun. I love our 18th Century Market Fair in late October and the Candlelight Tours in December. At the Market Fair, I've been a tavern wench, selling coffee, cider, Snickerdoodles and our delicious applesauce cake.

And at Candlelight, I love the dancing. It truly transports me back to 1820 and makes it so very real for me. The dancing — and actually, all the Candlelight activities — are such big crowd-pleasers.

Besides, where else in Louisville can you dress up in beautiful gowns and pretend it's the late 1700s and early 1800s?

Special Tours Are Now Available

There are so many exciting stories about Locust Grove's house and the people who lived here that it's hard to dwell on them in our regular hourly tours. So we're offering occasional special tours to give visitors an extra added bonus. They'll be on Sundays (often the third Sunday of the month) at 1:15 p.m. The cost is the same as our regular tours, but the information will be geared to a specific subject. These tours are first-come, first-served. But to assure your place on a special tour, you may pre-register by calling the Visitors Center at (502) 897-9845. Enjoy!

Furniture, Silver, and Paintings

Sunday, November 16, 2008, 1:15 p.m.

Lynn Renau, former curator at both the Filson Historical Society and the Kentucky Derby Museum, will lead the tour. The tour will focus on the many pieces of fine furniture, silver, and paintings in Locust Grove's collection. These include our original portraits of Lucy Clark Croghan, William Croghan, and George Rogers Clark — all painted here at Locust Grove.

General George Rogers Clark

Sunday, January 18, 2009, 1:15 p.m.

Diana Winkler, veteran Locust Grove docent, will focus this special tour on the life of George Rogers Clark — Louisville founder, Revolutionary War hero, and conqueror of the Northwest Territory. You'll hear about the important role General Clark played in early American history, and why the founder of Louisville came to spend the last years of his life at Locust Grove.

A Glimpse Of The Gallery

There's a wealth of wonderful new items to see, facts to learn, and things to experience in the new Martin Schmidt Gallery exhibit in the Visitors Center — ***A Country Worth Defending: Land and Family in Early Kentucky.***

One real eye-popper is the Croghan Family Tree Quilt — a one-of-a-kind work of art created expressly for the new Gallery. It clearly defines the relationships between the Clark and Croghan families, with the names and dates for all of Lucy and William Croghan's children and for Lucy's nine Clark siblings. Come see for yourself!



Shop Online and Donate, Too!



Do you buy holiday gifts online at places such as L.L. Bean, Amazon, Macy's, eBay, Lands' End, and Alibris? If so, your purchases can bring a small

donation to Locust Grove — **at no cost to you!**

Locust Grove participates in the "Shop For Our Museum" program, accessible on our website via the logo shown above. Clicking that logo takes you to hundreds of the web's most popular shopping sites. Then you browse and buy just as you normally do. But when you click "Buy," the site gives a fraction of your purchase amount to Locust Grove — **again, at no cost to you.**

But — and this is most important — in order for Locust Grove to get that donation, you **must** go to the Internet merchant's site through the link on www.locustgrove.org **before placing your order.**

By the way, if you've been shopping and have put several items in a merchant's "Shopping Cart" and then realize you didn't access that merchant through ShopForOurMuseum, no problem!

Just go to Locust Grove's website, click on the ShopForOurMuseum logo, and then search for that same merchant's site. Everything you've put in your Shopping Cart is still there. Click "Buy" — and you've not only completed another shopping task, you've also helped Locust Grove. Thank you!

Did You Know?

Locust Grove's smokehouse is the only building, other than the house, that is original to our site. This 1790s smokehouse was the backdrop for a fascinating demonstration during the Slow Foods Bluegrass/Locust Grove Family Picnic this past June.

Celebrated Louisville chef **Jay Denham**, who smokes the meats he serves in his two Louisville restaurants (Park Place on Main and Browning's), told why smoking meats was important and demonstrated the process of preparing meats for smoking as it might have been done by the Croghans.



First, they had to remove the liquids from the freshly slaughtered meats through a "salting" process. This was done by hand-packing a combination of coarse salt, brown sugar, and saltpeter onto every inch of fresh meat.

This salted meat would then be placed in the brining trough (ours sits on the left wall as you enter our smokehouse). Over the next six weeks or so, more of the salt/sugar mixture might be applied as the meat began to dry out.

Once dehydration was achieved, the meats would be hung on the rafters, ready to be smoked. A smoky fire using green wood or fragrant woods such as apple or hickory would work its magic over the next week or so, until the meats took on a brown crust. Most meats, when properly smoked, would remain edible for up to two to four years.

And now you know.

2008 AFTERNOON LECTURE SERIES

The theme of this year's series is "Early Louisville Society." Each lecture will investigate the changing social structures of early Kentucky. Lectures are held on the first Wednesday of each month, except for January and May. 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.

LOUISVILLE'S EARLY NEWSPAPERS

Wednesday, November 5, 1:00 p.m.

Tom Owen, associate archivist and community relations associate at the University of Louisville, will share the history of Louisville's early newspapers. He'll talk about the first newspaper, *Louisville Journal*, the rise of competitors, the ethnic and religious sheets, and the changing role of the newspaper over the years.

ANNUAL HOLIDAY CONCERT

Wednesday, December 3, 1:00 p.m.

Each year, Louisville Dulcimer Society members delight with joyous traditional holiday music played on Kentucky's official state instrument, the lap or mountain dulcimer, and other folk instruments. It's a great way to kick off the holiday season and conclude another successful lecture series.



2009 AFTERNOON LECTURE SERIES

In 2009, we'll explore "The Material World: Art, Architecture, and Design in Early Kentucky." We hope you'll join us!

KENTUCKY PORTRAIT PAINTERS

Wednesday, February 4, 2009 — 1:00 p.m.

Estill Curtis ("Buck") Pennington will talk about early artists in Kentucky and in the South. Formerly with Archives of American Art and the National Portrait Gallery, Buck's new book on Kentucky portraits is due this winter from the University of Kentucky Press.

HOLIDAY BOOK SALE AT CANDLELIGHT

Friday, December 12 and Saturday, December 13
12 Noon–4:00 p.m. and 5:30 p.m.–9:00 p.m.

Check out this special holiday sale of gift-quality antiquarian and remaindered books. The sale of these beautiful gift books benefits the education and preservation programs of Historic Locust Grove.

If you would like to receive updates about Locust Grove's programs and events via e-mail, please send your address to: wise@locustgrove.org, with "e-mail" as the subject. Locust Grove will keep your e-mail address private.

2008-2009 CHAMBER MUSIC SERIES

This is a rare opportunity to enjoy music much as the Croghans and Clarks would have in the early 1800s.

Light refreshments are served on the first floor of the historic house at 5:00 p.m.; the concert is at 5:30 in the ballroom.

We have three levels of support for our Chamber Music Series — Patrons, \$200; Supporter, \$100; Season Subscriber, \$65. Individual concert tickets may be purchased at \$20 each.

Seating is limited and reservations are required.

Because of limited space, we request that Season Ticket Holders also confirm their attendance for each concert.

Please call (502) 897-9845 for further information and purchase individual tickets or to subscribe.

MUSICKE'S CORDES

Sunday, November 2, 2008

An evening of English and Italian songs and instrumental dances, drawn from the late 17th to mid-18th century.

Countertenor **Jay Carter**, from Yale University, will present songs by John Dowland, Henry Purcell, and Francesco Geminiani. Accompanying him will be **Jeff Noonan** on the lute, and **Phil Spray** on the violone.

WINTER OF THE BIG SNOW

Sunday, December 14, 2008

Recapture the Christmas of 1830 with this concert featuring Washington Irving's "Old Christmas." Through music, the *Locust Grove Chamber Musicians* will evoke the sense of Christmas traditions and customs of early 19th century England.

FAIREST ISLE

Sunday, February 15, 2009

Louisville's own period instrument ensemble, *Bourbon Baroque*, will play "songs and ayres of The Fairest Isle" [i.e., England]. Joining the group will be Soprano **Laura Lea Duckworth**.

COMMEMORATING HAYDN

Sunday, March 22, 2009

In commemoration of the 250th anniversary of Haydn's death, forte pianist **Joan Parsley** will join members of *Ensemble Musical Offering*.

A presentation of Haydn piano trios will aptly celebrate the life of the Austrian composer.

Historic Locust Grove
CALENDAR



18TH CENTURY MARKET FAIR

Saturday, October 25, 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Sunday, October 26, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Step back two centuries to a time when people gathered to trade goods, socialize, and be entertained. Shop for 18th century goods — such as blankets, soaps, copperware, and candles — great for today's living, too! Enjoy hearty fare and sweets typical of the late 1700s, along with hand-crafted cider and other liquid refreshments. Take a tour of the American, British, and Native American encampments — but watch out for skirmishes.

Admission (which includes a tour of the historic house and the Gallery) is good for both days — \$6 for adults, \$3 for seniors over 62 and children aged 6 to 12, and free for children 5 and under.

LOCUST GROVE MUSEUM STORE SALE

Friday, November 28 through Sunday, December 6

For special Christmas gifts without traffic hassles, shop our Museum Store! During this sale, you'll receive a 15 percent discount on all purchases. The museum store carries a wide array of stationery, music, toys, special books, and Kentucky-made crafts.

HOLIDAY CRAFT SAMPLER

Friday, November 28 — *The day after Thanksgiving!*
Demonstrations — 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Last tour starts — 3:15 p.m.

Here's the perfect way to entertain your Thanksgiving visitors! Experience the early 19th century at Locust Grove. You'll be able



to interact with our woodworker, who will be using his collection of historic tools to create wooden treasures . . . with our cook, who will be busy tending her pots over the hearth fire . . . and with our weaver, who will show you what it takes to turn wool and flax into fabric. And it's all included in our regular admission!

ADULT WINTER WORKSHOPS

Reservations are required. Please call 897-9845 to save your spot!

PAINTED FLOOR CLOTHS



Saturday, November 22
11:00 p.m.–1:30 p.m., and
Sunday, November 23
1:00 p.m.–3:30 p.m.

Virginia Tucker, owner of The Virginia Floor Cloth Company in

Louisville, will show you how to create a versatile floor covering for your home. The art of making floor cloths (a precursor to linoleum) became popular in the 1700s. Virginia uses the patterns of John Carwitham, who published a book in 1739 called *Various Kinds of Floor Decorations in Both Plano and Perspective*.

In this two-day workshop, participants will paint and create their own floor cloth. The fee includes frames, canvas, paint, brushes, and pattern. The workshop is held in two sessions to allow the first day's paint to dry. Two-day workshop cost is \$75.

BONNET MAKING

Saturday, January 24, 2009
10:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

Bonny Wise, Locust Grove's marketing coordinator and president of the Kentucky chapter of the Jane Austen Society of North America, will lead a bonnet-making workshop. She'll show you how to make and decorate Regency-era bonnets and create silk ribbon flowers. We'll provide a list of necessary supplies for participants to purchase before the workshop, or they may buy the supplies from Bonny at the workshop. Cost: \$20.



HOLIDAY CANDLELIGHT TOURS

Friday, December 12 and Saturday, December 13
5:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

A celebration reminiscent of the year 1820 comes alive under the warm glow of candles. The Clark and Croghan families welcome guests with dancing and singing; mantels and stairs are draped with fresh greens and exotic fruits; and family members are found in every room of the house. In the kitchen, cooks show how food is prepared for the guests, while carpenters in the woodshop make repairs to farm tools. And it's all included in our regular prices: \$8, general admission; \$7, seniors; \$4, children 6-12; and free for children under 6 and "Friends of Locust Grove."



Locust Grove's Summer Camps

Hot Fun In the Summertime!

This year's crop of campers at Locust Grove in June and July stepped back two centuries to get a sense of what it was like to live in the early 1800s. Our two workshops — one focusing on

woodworking and the other on pioneer life — were great fun and provided fascinating experiences for all participants. The weather might have been hot, but returning to the past was totally cool.



Friends of Locust Grove

Enrollment/Renewal from July 1, 2008 through September 16, 2008

A hearty "thank you" to all of these people who recently joined or renewed their memberships, and to all of our longtime Friends of Locust Grove!

If you'd like to become a Friend, please go online to www.locustgrove.org, or call us at (502) 897-9845 for further information and details.

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To Become a Friend

Yearly memberships in the Friends of Locust Grove are available

in three categories:

Individual — \$35

Family — \$50

Student — \$15

For membership information and details, please call us at (502) 897-9845.

Remember:
"Friends of Locust Grove" always receive a 10% discount at the Museum Store!

Many Thanks To Our 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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We now accept donations online through the secure servers at **Network for Good**.

Go to www.locustgrove.org, click on "Participate" and then click on "Donate." Go to the "Donate Now" box on that page and you'll be sent directly to a secure page for Locust Grove.

You can determine the amount you'd like to give and even set up monthly automatic payments, if you'd like. You may designate what the gift is for and if it is in memory or in honor of someone.

Donate By Mail

If you'd rather send your check through the mail, you may print out the form on our website or just send your check with a note.

If the donation is in honor or in memory of a person, please include where and to whom you would like us to acknowledge your donation. Send your check and note to:

Carol Ely, Executive Director
 Historic Locust Grove
 561 Blankenbaker Lane
 Louisville, KY 40207

All donors will receive acknowledgment, along with our sincere thanks for your donation. All donations are tax-deductible.

Save The Date! Nashville in May 2009

Volunteers and Friends of Locust Grove are invited to participate in a special trip to Nashville, Tenn., on **Weds., May 13, and Thurs., May 14, 2009**. It will be a coach trip with an overnight stay in Music City USA.

The itinerary hasn't been firmed up as yet, but we'll be visiting special museums and historic sites in Nashville and vicinity. We'll leave Locust Grove on Wednesday morning and return late on Thursday afternoon or early in the evening.

We'll have details of the trip in the Winter 2009 issue of *Grove Gazette* due out in early February. But mark your calendars now for what should be a terrific visit to our Tennessee neighbor.



Antiques in Autumn

Antiques took center stage for two Sundays in September this year. On September 21, scores of people lugged clocks and canes, vases and paintings, books and coins, and many other items for appraisal by **Charles Bartman** (books), **Scott Nussbaum** (general antiques), and **Byrd Saylor III** (coins). Many folks were pleasantly surprised by the appraised values, while others nodded wisely when told that the greatest value of their

treasures was the enjoyment they received from them.

Weather during the Antiques Market the next Sunday was spectacular — and the crowds made the most of the gorgeous event.

