

GROVE GAZETTE

Historic Locust Grove

561 Blankenbaker Lane

Louisville, KY 40207

(502) 897-9845

www.locustgrove.org



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Nancy Lee – Spirit Award Winner



For 15 years, **Nancy Lee** has been educating visitors about Historic Locust Grove and the people who called it home.

Nancy taught third- and fourth-grade Social Studies for 30 years in Jefferson County's schools. She brought so many classes to Locust Grove over those decades that she decided to become a part of Locust Grove when she retired.

After her retirement in 1993, she went through docent training. "By December, I'd given so many school tours that I took on a Sunday shift so I wouldn't forget how to give an adult tour," she laughs.

Over the years, Nancy has taken on many other responsibilities at Historic Locust Grove. She's served on

the Volunteer Steering Committee for many years. When she chaired that committee, she joined HLG's board and stayed there for six years. A year later she was appointed to HLG's Board of Advisors, where she serves today.

Nancy has mentored many new docents, all of whom treasure her guidance, spirit, and vast knowledge about the Clarks, Croghans and Locust Grove. She still does many school tours as well as being a regular docent on Sundays and Wednesdays.

Nancy loves to travel and has been all over the world. She's visited scores of historic sites, but Locust Grove is still her favorite and one of the best.

"I'm so proud of our docents here at Locust Grove," she says.



"They rank up there with the best in the country."

Nancy also serves on Locust Grove's education committee and is working with the group doing the upcoming interior restoration of the house.

"I don't know what we'd do without Nancy Lee," adds **Carol Ely**, HLG's executive director.

"She is incredibly reliable and always so pleasant. Recently, during the transition between program directors, Nancy stepped right in to schedule volunteers so that our programs could go right on."

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

From The Director's Desk

Carol Ely, Ph.D., Executive Director

The ribbon has been cut, the guns have saluted, and the visitors are streaming into our sparkling new permanent exhibit in the Martin F. Schmidt Exhibit Gallery.

"A Country Worth Defending: Land and Family in Early Kentucky" opened the first

week of July. This new exhibit focuses on the region around Locust Grove, from the French and Indian War, through the American Revolution, and to the Croghan household's daily life at Locust Grove. We've even recreated William Croghan's surveyor's office in our 1810 log house.

It's a complicated, fascinating story. The text of the exhibition allows visitors to take in as much or as little as they like.

The exhibit itself (designed by Solid Light, Inc.) blends images, texts, and objects with hands-on activities. You can try on a military uniform, crawl into a surveyor's tent, and lift a heavy milkpail — just some of the experiences that help tell the story of life in this developing frontier region.

The addition houses not only the Schmidt Exhibit Gallery but new offices and a much-needed collections storage facility.

This project began with the first donation to the capital and endowment campaign in late 2002, and continued with fundraising and support from many wonderful individuals, businesses, and foundations.

So many people were part of this effort that I won't even attempt to name them all here,

but do note the donor plaque in the exhibit when you come.

During the next few months, we'll be developing school programs, tours, publications, and other programs based on the new exhibit. Watch the *Grove Gazette* and our web site for more news.

But — rather than telling you how great I think the exhibit is,

here are some of the comments we received from our early visitors:

"It really exceeded my expectations!"

"The big murals are wonderful. This seems very enticing for kids."

"I greatly enjoyed everything."

"The textual history along the walls was fascinating. I loved learning about the role of George Rogers Clark and all the other people who lived or visited here."

"I became more aware of the area's history."

"This is a great addition to Locust Grove."

"I'm the sad product of a public education — weak history classes. It's not an excuse; I can read. But exhibits and places such as this will help generate some important interest in history."

"The quilt is magnificent, but the entirety of the exhibit is marvelous."

"I loved learning about the Croghan family."

"The exhibit spans more of America's history than ever before, and shows how George Rogers Clark is connected to each piece."

Thanks to all who made this dream come true!



Holding the scissors, ready to officially open the new exhibit, are representatives of some of our greatest supporters. From the left, they are: **see man's face**, Barbara Rodes, Mary Hancock, Capital Campaign Chair LaMar Gaston, George Duthie, Immediate Past Board President Scott Waters, Executive Director Carol Ely, Edie Bingham, Sam Lord, and U. S. Representative John Yarmuth.



Revolutionary War reenactors fire a salute during the Grand Opening ceremony on July 4th.

Carol Ely

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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

Bob Pilkington is William Clark



Photograph by Christina Freitag

Besides being William Clark, what is your other role in HLG's interpreter program?

I'm on the steering committee that helps our program director run the interpreter program. Also on the committee are **Mandy Dick, Rod Smothers, Brian Cushing and Cheryl Atkinson**. We do things like encouraging research, finding new events to appear in, developing characters, role-playing, and such.

How long have you been portraying William Clark and how did you get started?

I've been William Clark for more than 18 years. When my wife Audrey died in 1990, **Gwynne Potts** [former HLG Executive Director and current Board President] said, "We aren't going to lose you, are we?"

Well, since all I'd been doing was showing up for special events and cooking the bratwurst, I figured I could still do that.

Hah! That's not what Gwynne had in mind. That was in May. By our Candlelight Tours in

December, I was (barely) William Clark, younger brother of Lucy Clark Croghan and George Rogers Clark.

How did you select William Clark to portray?

It was Gwynne's idea. I had very little choice in the matter. (Maybe it was my red hair.) However, I knew there was bound to be a lot of material written about William Clark, so I took the "easy" way out.

How do you research your character?

I read and listen. I started with the Locust Grove library and went on to accumulate a lot of background material on my own, through the Internet and book dealers. Since Will was a leader of the Lewis and Clark expedition as well as a member of the prominent Clark family, there's a good deal written about him.

And the more I learn about William, the more fascinated I become with the great stories of history. The only problem is separating the fact from the fiction.

What are some of William Clark's characteristics?

Persistence, persuasion, self-confidence, persistence, outgoing personality, leadership, inquisitiveness, persistence, adaptability, a basic humility, and the ability see a job through no matter what. Did I mention persistence?

What are some of the things you do to make William Clark come to life?

I'm not an actor or historian, I'm more of a storyteller. So I

use that in relating to Will's history and accomplishments. What he did is easy enough to portray in the great stories of revolution and exploration if you remember him as a person, not an icon.

And I try not to "act." I'm a lousy actor, as my drama professor was forced to tell me. So I just tell stories.

What makes costumed interpreting such great fun?

The best times are those when a visitor tries to get you out of character. We interpreters know so much more about the character and the times in which he or she lived that it's fun to watch our guests get more and more frustrated with our determination to stay in character.

For example, here's what three of us did to one of our good-natured visitors recently:

Interpreter #1:

How did you get here tonight?

Visitor, scornfully:

I came in a car!

Interpreter #2:

A cart? Dog-cart? Horse-cart?

Mule-cart? How did it go?

Visitor, with a snort:

It ran on an engine!

Interpreter #3:

An Injun? Why, they're savages!

They'd never do that!

Another of my favorites:

Guest:

May I take your picture?

Me, aghast, gesturing to the wall behind me:

Take my picture? Certainly not! I paid good money for that portrait.

A Grand Opening of a Grand New Exhibit

Four days of festivities have ushered in a new era for Locust Grove’s visitors.

On Wednesday, July 2, special guests at the pre-opening reception officially inaugurated the exhibit with a ribbon-cutting and a first-look at “A Country Worth Defending: Land and Family in Early Kentucky.” This engaging new exhibit in the Martin F. Schmidt Gallery focuses on the lives and stories of the Croghans and the Clarks as they created this place called Locust Grove.

Visitors can experience George Rogers Clark’s dramatic assault on Vincennes in the Revolution. They can try out a surveyor’s compass, view the Clark-Croghan family genealogy in the form of a stunning quilt, admire Clark’s sword against a backdrop of images of noted visitors to Locust Grove, and read the letters of the Clark and Croghan families.



The daily work of all on the farm, including the enslaved people, is featured in a child-friendly “A Day in the Life” interactive display. The family’s interactions with the slaves and their views on slavery are presented through a series of excerpts from letters and public documents. A nearby wall map shows the extent of the nearly 700-acre farm as it was in the Croghans’ era.

After a look at the subsequent history of the property and its restoration, visitors can enter the log-framed office that represents William Croghan’s land and surveying office, which was known to have been built “in the garden” at Locust Grove.



All Friends of Locust Grove were invited to the Thursday, July 3, Members’ Preview Party. And on Friday, July 4, the exhibit officially opened (free that day) — complete with greetings from Kentucky’s 3rd District U. S. Representative **John Yarmuth** and a 12-gun salute by Illinois Regiment reenactors in Revolutionary War dress.

The line of visitors snaked through the exhibit as people studied the words, viewed the artifacts, tried on the clothes, crawled into the tent, struggled to lift a heavy milkpail, and contemplated life as it must have been when this was the frontier.

For all of us at Locust Grove — and for all our visitors — we offer heartfelt thanks to all who helped make our exhibit dream a spectacular reality.



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.

URBAN SLAVERY

Wednesday, August 6, 1:00 p.m.

J. Blaine Hudson, dean of the School of Arts & Sciences at the University of Louisville, will examine urban slavery in early Louisville. Dr. Hudson is a prominent African American history researcher, writer, and popular speaker. He has authored *Fugitive Slaves and the Underground Railroad in the Kentucky Borderland*, and will soon publish *The Encyclopedia of the Underground Railroad*.



Dean Hudson has chaired the Kentucky African American Heritage Commission since 2000, and has served the commonwealth on many historical, educational and civil rights panels. He has received numerous honors for research and public service, including the 2002 Martin Luther King Jr. Dream Award from Louisville Metro Government.

KENTUCKY DISTILLERIES

**Wednesday, September 3
1:00 p.m.**

During National Bourbon Heritage Month in September, **Chris Morris** will explore the history of Kentucky distilleries. Morris is the Master Distiller for Woodford Reserve Bourbon Whiskey, which is distilled in the oldest operating distillery in Kentucky.

A well-known figure in the spirits industry, Morris will talk about the history of his and other distilleries in Kentucky, and the impact of this special regional product on the nation and the world.



Copper stills at Kentucky's oldest distillery, Labrot & Graham.

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.

HIGHER EDUCATION IN KENTUCKY

Wednesday, October 1, 1:00 p.m.



Professor **James Klotter** will discuss the development and growth of higher education in Kentucky. This native Kentuckian received his Ph.D. in history from the University of Kentucky. He was an associate editor of *Kentucky Encyclopedia*, and was the Executive Director of the Kentucky Historical Society

for many years, until his retirement.

Currently, Dr. Klotter is the State Historian of Kentucky and Professor of History at Georgetown College.

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.

BENEFIT BOOK SALE

**Saturday, August 18 and Sunday, August 19
10:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.**

Locust Grove volunteer and antiquarian book dealer **Charles Bartman** offers his used, collectible and remaindered books for sale, with a portion of the proceeds benefiting Historic Locust Grove's education and preservation programs. Historic Locust Grove's ever-growing and highly popular annual Used Book Sale is scheduled for March 13–15, 2009.

KENTUCKY HARVEST FESTIVAL

Co-sponsored With Slow Food Bluegrass

Sunday, September 7, 1:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.



This first-ever Kentucky Harvest Festival on the grounds of Historic Locust Grove, co-sponsored by Slow Food Bluegrass, will feature delicious foods from outstanding local chefs using local ingredients. You can sample Kentucky's finest foods while celebrating our local bounty in a family-friendly environment.

Admission for the Kentucky Harvest Festival is \$5 per carload, with a nominal charge for food tickets. We are including tours of

Historic Locust Grove's historic buildings and exhibits in this special \$5/carload entrance fee — although donations will be most gratefully accepted.

ANTIQUES APPRAISAL DAY



Sunday, September 21
1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
(Registration begins at 12:30 p.m.)

Scott F. Nussbaum, nationally known antiquarian and appraiser, will offer appraisals of antique and vintage items that you bring in.

(Please, no large furniture). Also on hand will be antiquarian book dealer **Charles Bartman** and **Byrd Saylor III**, a dealer in antique coins and currency. Watch our website for details.

Fees are \$10 per item or 3 items for \$25 (limit six items). All proceeds go toward support of Historic Locust Grove's education and restoration programs.

This event leads up to our Fall Antiques Market the next Sunday, September 28. Participants in Antiques Appraisal Day will receive a discount on Antiques Market tickets.

FALL ANTIQUES MARKET

Sunday, September 28
10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Professional dealers from the South and Midwest display their wares on the lawn at Historic Locust Grove. In addition to American country antiques, the show features formal furniture, jewelry, silver, books, and vintage wares. Admission is \$6 for adults, \$3 for children 6-12, free for kids 5 and under, and includes tours of the historic house. Concessions will be available. Proceeds support the continued operation and preservation of Historic Locust Grove.



MERCER COUNTY HISTORIC SITES TOUR

Tuesday, October 7
All day

All volunteers and Friends of Locust Grove are invited to join us for a trip to some of Mercer County's historic sites. (See next page for information on becoming a Friend of Locust Grove.) Our first stop will be Harrodsburg, with a tour of Old Fort Harrod. Next, we'll drive on to the Shaker Village at Pleasant Hill where we'll lunch in its charming restaurant and have a tour. Then, we'll board the Dixie Belle for a boat ride through the breathtaking Kentucky Palisades.

Space on the tour bus is limited, so make your reservations soon! The cost is \$90 per person. **Reservation deadline is August 5.** You may call 897-9845 to secure your spot; but reservations are not final until we've received your payment. We hope you'll join us!

18TH CENTURY MARKET FAIR

Saturday, October 25, and Sunday, October 26
10:00 a.m. to 4:30 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! Visit the tavern or enjoy hearty fare and sweets typical of the late 1700s. Take a tour of the American, British, Hessian, Native American and other encampments from some of the reenactors, but watch out for skirmishes between these forces.



Admission (which includes a tour of Locust Grove) is good for both days — \$6 for adults, \$3 for children aged 6 to 12, and free for children 5 and under.

Shirley Dumesnil Wins 2008 Pilkington Lifetime Achievement Award



Docent. Board Member. Committee Member. Committee Chair. Board Executive. Delightful Person. Valued Advisor. Tireless Volunteer.

For all these gifts and so much more, **Shirley Dumesnil** has received Historic Locust Grove's highest volunteer honor — the Audrey Pilkington Lifetime Achievement Award.

"For more than 20 years, Shirley Dumesnil has quietly and efficiently offered invaluable contributions to Locust Grove," says current Board President and former Executive Director **Gwynne Potts**. "All who hear of her selection will rise to their feet in loud appreciation of her many, many accomplishments."

Gwynne adds that those accomplishments are abundant. "Shirley has served as a discreet

sounding board and good shepherd to three grateful executive directors."

Shirley works special events wherever she's needed and has chaired the education committee for years. "She has a talent for seeking out exceptional speakers for our Wednesday Afternoon lectures — a program that continues to grow in popularity and substance," adds HLG Executive Director **Carol Ely**.

In 2002, Shirley also co-chaired the yearlong 250th birthday celebration for George Rogers Clark and chaired the 2004 executive director search committee.

"Shirley's repeated selection to countless *ad hoc* committees over the years is indicative of the respect we all have for her," adds Gwynne.

What An Event-ful Spring!

GARDENERS' FAIR AND AUCTION

Friday through Sunday, May 9-11



ANTIQUES MARKET

Sunday, June 29



LOCUST GROVE/SLOW FOOD BLUEGRASS FAMILY PICNIC

Sunday, June 22



Friends of Locust Grove

Enrollment/Renewal – April 13, 2008, through June 30, 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 join, 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 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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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.

Jane Austen Festival – Food, Fashion, and Fun

On a gorgeous weekend in mid-July, some ____ fans of English author Jane Austen filled Locust Grove's auditorium and grounds — enjoying afternoon tea, fashion shows, a bonnet-making class, a lecture and book-signing, and a concert held in Locust Grove's 19th-century ballroom featuring Jane Austen's favorite music.

Many of the participants came dressed in period-appropriate outfits, modeling the styles of Federal-era America and Regency England. They ... what? had the opportunity to purchase period-specific goods such as materials, feathers, and something else quirky, along with books and what???

