

GROVE GAZETTE

Historic Locust Grove

561 Blankenbaker Lane

Louisville, KY 40207

(502) 897-9845

www.locustgrove.org



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LaMar Gaston Spirit Award Winner

Parking cars in broiling sun or chilly rain. Spreading hay on soggy ground before the sun is up. Putting thousands of miles on his trusty station wagon. Spending countless hours in meetings — at Locust Grove and with the multitude of friends he's charmed into becoming enthusiastic supporters of Locust Grove.

For his tireless championing for Locust Grove and his dedication to our historic site, the Volunteer Steering Committee awards this quarter's Spirit Award to **LaMar Gaston**.

"LaMar Gaston is a force of nature," says Historic Locust Grove Executive Director

Carol Ely. "His superhuman energy is matched only by his extraordinary attentiveness to people — he can charm anyone into doing anything!"

LaMar has served on HLG's Board of Directors for decades. Three years after joining the board, he was elected president — leading the board through the 1990 capital campaign that created the current Martin L. Schmidt Visitors' Center. LaMar personally called, wrote, and met with the people who became Locust Grove's largest donors.

LaMar has led the wildly popular Gardeners' Fair for many years. "I couldn't have asked for anyone kinder or easier to work with," says Gardeners' Fair co-chair **Norma Adams**.



"For nearly 30 years, LaMar has appeared with ice water, blankets, straw, paint, mower, wood, hammer, glue, donuts, checkbook, and good friend **Ray Renaud** to take care of every single emergency the museum has faced," says HLG Board President **Gwynne Potts**. "Locust Grove as we know it simply would not exist without LaMar. His face should be cast in bronze and placed just a little behind Clark's statue."

Yearly Events Mark Your Calendars!

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

Two Big Used Book Sales!
Great book bargains around the weekends of August 26-28, 2011, and March 16-18, 2012.

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

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

Two 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*

Locust Grove nearly didn't survive to become the historic site that it is today — a National Historic Landmark and a Louisville treasure.

During the 1950s, suburban housing developments rapidly covered former fields and farms outside of downtown Louisville, expanding along corridors such as Brownsboro Road. A virtual exodus from city neighborhoods made former dairy and stock farms much more valuable for ranch houses and "Colonials" than for crops or market gardens.

The Waters family had owned Locust Grove for 80 years. They boarded horses and ran a dairy and egg operation — selling to locals who drove to the picturesque but rundown farm to purchase directly from the owners.

Making a living by farming had been tough in Kentucky since the Croghans' time, and the upkeep on a 170-year old house was impossible to manage.

After the death of Lily Waters, the many heirs were unable to decide on a unified course of action. So, in July of 1961, Locust Grove went to auction on the steps

of the Jefferson County Courthouse.

It would have been easy to sell the land for house lots, perhaps saving the Croghan house as the community center or the sales office for the development.

But a few preservation-minded individuals had another idea.

With their vision and their influence, the Commonwealth of Kentucky and Jefferson County jointly purchased all of the remaining 55 acres of Croghan's original 695 acres for \$250,000. That was the absolute highest price that their agent was authorized to bid against deep-pocketed developers.

Yes, we came that close to losing Locust Grove. If just one higher bid had been offered, all of this historic site would be patios and barbeques.

This July, we celebrate 50 years of public ownership of Locust Grove. The



Members of the Acquisitions Committee visit the newly purchased Locust Grove in April 1962. Left to right, they are Mary McDowell Webb, Elizabeth Potter, Jean Stewart Ogden, Mary Park Tarrant, James Lowry Cogar, Helen Edwards Abell, Eleanor O'Rear, Harriet Cox Collis, and architect Frederic L. Morgan. Photo from *The Courier-Journal*.

Commonwealth turned the site over to the County, and then Jefferson County merged with Metro Louisville. So now this public site belongs to the citizens of the city founded by George Rogers Clark in 1778.

Ownership was just the beginning. Restoration, research, archaeology, furnishing, fundraising, governance, interpretation — all of this took years, determination and many hands.

It still isn't finished. And we hope it never will be done!

Carol Ely

Locust Grove Gets An Updated Logo



Soon, you may notice something a little different about our Locust Grove logo. Our old logo, designed 20 years ago by the late **Bill Swearingen**, served Locust Grove well. But we realized that all our communication tools — flyers, website, brochures, and more — needed to look more visually coordinated. Part of this redesign included re-thinking our logo.

The committee that planned this transition considered a completely new logo, one that was both historic and modern — and one that would be both serious and fun. We even sponsored a contest on a graphic design website and viewed many innovative concepts.

But in the end, we liked our existing logo better. We were fortunate that **Liz Swearingen-Edens** offered us some fresh tweaks. Liz, a designer and a Board member, is also the daughter of the original designer. She redrew the trees, added a curve to represent a hill, and found a fresh, new typeface. She also proposed new ways to frame and vary the logo.

So, step by measured step, we will roll out a comprehensive redesign of all of our printed and online materials during this coming year.

Grove Gazette is published quarterly by Historic Locust Grove, Inc. for members, volunteers and supporters of Historic Locust Grove. © 2011

561 Blankenbaker Lane
Louisville, KY 40207
(502) 897-9845
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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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Grove Gazette

Carol Ely, Ph.D., Executive Director
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Photography by: Gary Bourne, Carol Ely,
Jennifer Jansen, Jeannie Litterst Vezeau,
Candice Watters, Mary Beth Williams

Primary Source Documents About Historic Locust Grove

Voices From The Past

The Croghan children were sent away for further education after a few years spent learning at home and at the stone neighborhood schoolhouse near what is now Brownsboro Road. Twins Nicholas and Charles Croghan, aged 14, were the sixth and seventh

children born to Lucy and William. (The last one was Edmund.) The twins attended St. Thomas College in Springfield, Washington County, Kentucky. This "college" was more like today's high school than today's university.

Material in [brackets] indicates editing.

From William Croghan to his sons, Nicholas and Charles

Locust Grove May 11th, 1816

My Dear Nicholas & Charles,

*I have Received your Letter of the 7th Instant which is Wrote and worded in a hansome Stile (for the first letter you ever Wrote) that I cannot but flatter Mysel[**f**] that in a Short time you will so far Improve as to be equal to most Boys of your age and experience....*

*At present I wish you to be Instructed in Reading, Writing, Arithmetic, Geography & History. One of your brothers or Mysel[**f**] will call to see you this Summer and see what Improvement you have Made and Consult with the professors what Other branches of Education you had better be Instructed in—your Confinement at College and living there [here Croghan inked out several lines] but you Must put up with it, and Cheerfully Submit to the Rules of the College & advice & Instructions of the professors; you are sent there to Recover the time you lost at the Stone Schoolhouse where you made little improvement in your Education, pray my dear Boys be attentive to your Books and no doubt you will have a good Education, your brother Edmund continues at the Seminary in Louisville and Improves, I hope you will at least Improve in your Education as fast as he does, your brothers John, George, and William have each of them a good Education... your sisters and brother Edmund are Much Obligated to you for the pictures, and paintings—pray write to me every two or three Weeks, let me know what you are learning, and how you like to live at the College, let me know if you want anything, and if in my power I will Send it for you—your Mother, Brothers & Sisters Unite with me in their love to you wishing you every possible happiness.*



This shows a young man in "pantaloons" or long pants—similar to what William Croghan might have been sending to his twin sons.

*I am My Dear Boys
your Affectionate Father*

W. Croghan

[postscript] May 14th I expected to Send this letter by Fortunatus Cosby, with two pair of pantaloons but he will not Start for a few days, when he goes I will send the pantaloons...

Unfortunately, neither boy was able to make much use of this fine education. Nicholas died in 1825 and Charles in 1832 (in Paris, where his brother John had taken him in hope of finding a cure for his tuberculosis). Youngest brother Edmund pre-deceased both of them.

2011 President's Award Winners Named

In 2009, HLG Board President **Gwynne Potts** created an award to honor people for their extra efforts to make the site and organization work. Before the June Board meeting, she presented the newest President's Award Winners. "These 2011 winners have devoted untold hours to Locust Grove, and we all most sincerely thank them. Locust Grove would not be what it is today without these most special people," Gwynne said.



The 2011 President's Award winners are (from the left) Nancy Lee, Nancy Stablein, Don Roth, and Shirley Dumesnil.

Shirley Dumesnil — for 40 years of leadership in nearly every capacity — docent, education chair, Derby chair, Lewis and Clark celebration co-chair, Regent, officer, director, and now director emeritus.

Nancy Lee — for financing the Locust Grove Doll House acquisition, serving on the Renovation Committee, co-chairing the Education Committee, acting as docent, as director and now as director emeritus.

Don and Ann Roth — for their generous contribution to the Locust

Grove operations fund, for Don's long role as interpreter and supporter, and for their consistent willingness over 25 years to make themselves useful whenever needed.

Nancy Stablein — for a lifetime of association with the property. Nancy has served as a museum director for 40 years and worked at every level, from cleaning the house to guiding the organization through its most difficult decisions.

Historic Locust Grove, Inc.'s New Board Directors

At the June meeting of the Board of Directors for Historic Locust Grove, Inc., the following people were elected to serve a three-year term:

- ☞ **Kate Boyer**, former HLG Education Committee member, is a contributing editor of *Chronicles Magazine*, a board member for the new Berry Center in Henry County, and is at work as co-author on a book on farming.
- ☞ **Joy Carew** is an Associate Professor in the Pan-African Studies department at the University of Louisville. A former HLG board member, she is the author of *Blacks, Reds, and Russians: Sojourners in Search of the Soviet Promise*.
- ☞ **Hunter Louis**, an urban planner and real estate developer, oversees new project development, home design, and business management for The Louie Partnership, Inc. He received a Masters degree in Urban Planning from Pratt Institute and has completed graduate courses towards an MBA at Bellarmine College.
- ☞ **Sharon Receveur**, preservation expert and archivist, is one of the authors of *The Encyclopedia of Louisville*, co-author of *Bernheim Arboretum and Research Forest* (where she is former trustee), and is a neighbor of Locust Grove.
- ☞ **Jim Richardson**, former President and CEO of Cedar Lake, Inc., is a cycling enthusiast with broad experience in civic and social activities in Oldham and Jefferson Counties. He has been honored with membership on the Kentucky Commission on Services and Supports for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities.
- ☞ **Claudia Runge**, former HLG board member and former JCPS teacher and administrator, is a Locust Grove docent and chair of our Education Committee. She also is a former state Department of Education employee whose experience in developing and monitoring state standards will be valuable as we develop new educational tour experiences.

Did You Know?

☞ Locust Grove's original 695 acres had been subdivided and diminished by half by the time the Waters family bought the property in 1882.

☞ The property was further divided for a proposed subdivision called "Fort Stanwix" in 1907, only part of which was built.

☞ Houses of prominent families such as the Brandeis family and the Belknaps were constructed on former Locust Grove land.

☞ By 1958 only about 200 acres of Locust Grove remained with the House; and in that year, another 56 acres went to form the Robinswood subdivision.

☞ Two years later, 116 acres was sold for the Riverwood subdivision.

☞ In the late 1950s Louisville preservationists began discussing how to save Locust Grove, including **Barry Bingham Sr., Julian Van Winkle, Winthrop Allen, and Sara Shallenberger Brown**.

☞ The plan to purchase Locust Grove for the public was the brainchild of County Judge **Bertram Van Arsdale** and **Millard Cox**, combining funds from Jefferson County and the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

☞ **The estate of Lily Waters — Locust Grove — was auctioned literally "on the courthouse steps" according to custom on July 24, 1961.** Developers and agents showed up to bid on the attractive property.

☞ Local real estate dealer **John R. Carpenter** was the agent selected to place the bids for public purchase of the property.

☞ **Carpenter won the auction on the 43rd bid — \$250,000.**

Ever since then, Locust Grove has been **yours**.

And now you know.

2011 FIRST WEDNESDAY LECTURE SERIES

Our lecture series this year offers a variety of interesting speakers and unusual topics that relate to the lives of the Croghans, Clark, and the region. Lectures are held on the first Wednesday of each month, except for January and May. Desserts and beverages are served at 1:00 p.m., with the lecture immediately following. Admission is \$5, or \$3 for Friends of Locust Grove.

DR. JOHN CROGHAN AND MAMMOTH CAVE

Wednesday, September 7 — 1:00 p.m.

Chuck DeCroix, a park ranger at the Mammoth Cave National Historic Park, will talk about the connections between Locust

Grove and Mammoth Cave. Several of the Croghan boys were frequent visitors to the cave during the 1820s. In 1839, Lucy and William's eldest son, Dr. John Croghan, purchased the cave along with seven cave guides who were enslaved African-Americans. The most famous was Stephen

Bishop, whose map of Mammoth Cave — drawn during a visit to Locust Grove in 1842 — remained in use for more than 40 years.

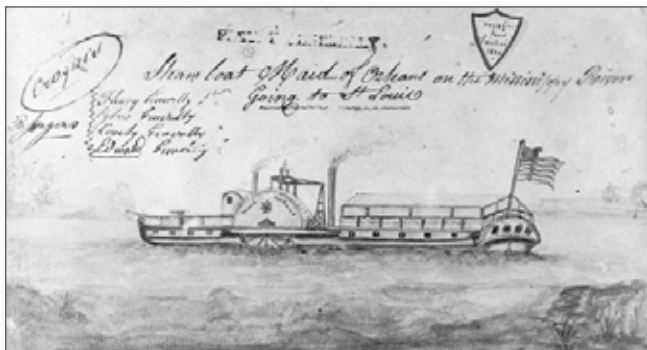


A rough sketch of Stephen Bishop's map of Mammoth Cave can be seen in the "Doctor's Office" on the third floor of Locust Grove.

THE STEAMBOAT OF 1811

Wednesday, October 5 — 1:00 p.m.

Chuck Parrish is a retired historian for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and chair of the 2011 Steamboat Bicentennial Committee, headquartered at the Rivers Institute at Hanover College in Indiana. He'll help us celebrate the arrival of the steamboat *New Orleans* in Louisville 200 years ago — ushering in a new era and changing life on the Ohio River forever. For a long time after that, Louisville would be crucial to the economy and politics of the nation.

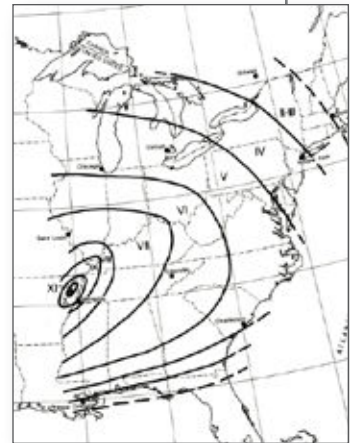


This drawing of an early steamboat, "Maid of Orleans," was done in 1820 by an unknown artist. Source: www.steamboattimes.com.

THE NEW MADRID EARTHQUAKE OF 1811

Wednesday, November 2
 1:00 p.m.

Dr. Ken Carstens is professor emeritus in history and archaeology at Murray State University and also an advisor to Locust Grove's Board of Directors. He'll talk about the New Madrid earthquake of 1811 and what it meant to the people of that region and the Mississippi and Ohio River valleys — including the Clarks and Croghans. He'll also discuss current evidence about seismic findings in the New Madrid fault.



Map is from www.tn.gov.

LOCUST GROVE/SLOW FOOD PICNIC

Sunday, August 14, 12:00 noon – 4:30 p.m.

Locust Grove could be called the original home of "slow food." The hearth kitchen, smoke house, and dairy make it the perfect location to celebrate local food and farming at this fourth annual picnic in



conjunction with Slow Food Bluegrass. We're encouraging local growers to swap plants, produce, and seeds. Some local food trucks will be on site, cooking up and serving their delicious specialties for your lunch. Other chefs will prepare locally grown foods for your picnic lunch, or you can bring your own picnic basket.



Vying for the 2010 Cast Iron Chef crown are, from the left, Richard Manias, Jeremy Wolfe, and Alan Manais.

This relaxed, child-friendly event again will feature the popular "Cast-Iron Chef" cook-off where chefs will prepare their dishes in cast-iron cookware over an open fire. We'll have talks and demonstrations on a variety of subjects related to growing your own

food and using locally sourced ingredients. Admission is \$5 per car — although bikers and walkers are free. It includes a tour of the recently restored circa 1790s house museum and gardens.

SUMMER BOOK SALE

Thursday, August 25 — Members' Preview

5:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

See page 6 for "Friends of Locust Grove" information.

Friday, August 26 – Sunday, August 28

Open to the Public, 10 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Our popular Used Book Sale returns for a late summer session. We have books on all subjects — from history to fiction, children's to mystery, antiquarian books, books on art, science, literature, and so much more.



We'll have about 10,000 books — all of them donated by avid readers and Locust Grove friends and sorted into categories for hassle-free browsing.

Most books are priced at \$2 for hardbacks and \$1 for paperbacks. Some books are specially priced, but always a value. *We accept donations of used books at any time of the year.* Just drop them off at the Visitors' Center during regular business hours. If you need help to get your books here, call us at 502-897-9845 and we'll pick them up.

Because all proceeds go to Locust Grove' educational and restoration programs, your donations are tax-deductible. Be sure to pick up your tax receipt.

FALL ANTIQUES MARKET

Sunday, September 25, 10:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Professional antiques dealers from the South and Midwest display their wares on the lawn at Historic Locust Grove. The show features American country antiques, formal furniture, jewelry, textiles, silver, and much more. Admission is \$6 for adults, \$3 for

children 6-12, free for children 5 and under. Includes tours of the historic house museum. Concessions will be available.



ADULT WORKSHOP

KNITTING 101

Saturday, September 17, 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Learn to knit, or brush up on your skills at this beginners' knitting class. Locust Grove volunteer and experienced knitter **Diane Statler** will teach you the basics of knitting, along with a few patterns. For your project, you'll work on a scarf using the different stitch techniques you'll learn today. Please bring a pair of Size 8 knitting needles, a cable hook, a skein of worsted-weight yarn, and a sack lunch. (Soft drinks are available at minimal cost from the Visitors' Center.) Cost: \$25.

Space is limited. Please call (502) 897-9845 to register today.

18TH CENTURY MARKET FAIR

Saturday and Sunday, October 29 and 30

10:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Step back more than 200 years to a time when people gathered at central locations to trade

goods, socialize, and be entertained. Shop for 18th century goods such as blankets, soaps, candles, and pottery — essentials for 18th-century living and useful for today's world, as well.

Delight in the entertainers, including, musicians, puppeteers, card sharks, and jugglers.



Enjoy hearty fare, sweets, and drinks typical of the late 1700s. Tour the American, British, and Native American encampments and watch as they re-enact battles on the great field by the barn.

Admission: \$6 for adults, \$3 for children aged 6 to 12, and

free for children 5 and under. Admission includes a tour of the historic house museum and is good for both days.



Volunteer 'Special Awards' Celebrate Unusual Achievements

The Volunteer Steering Committee presents special awards to recognize volunteers who have had unusual experiences with visitors or have exceeded expectations. The 2011 award categories and winners are —

Best Apple Pie Award

Janet Overman & Diane Statler — for the great apple pies they make while demonstrating hearth cooking during school group tours.

Chef's Hat Award

Jean Marlowe & Diane Statler — for demonstrating the cooking of a hearth meal (Scotch eggs, chicken, apple pie and pumpkin bread) for more than 150 eighth-graders and their chaperones — while also serving juice and cornbread to each of the 12 groups of student visitors.

Early Bird Award

Jim Statler — for taking in the earliest "gate admission" customer for the 2010 Fall Antiques Market at six o'clock in the morning.

Natural Disaster Award

Nancy Lee, Janet Overman, Bob Smith, Jane Smith & Kelly Stevenson — for calmly ushering all the students to the basement of the house when tornado sirens sounded. Special thanks to Kelly who entertained them all.

Saves the Day Award

Lynn Boone — for rushing to take over a school group in progress when another docent fell ill.

Lynn Boone & Jeannie Vezeau — for filling in at the last minute for a "Work and Play" when a kindergarten group showed up out of the blue.

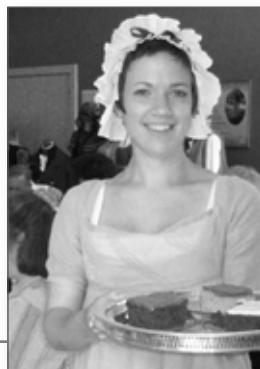
Nancy Lee — for twice dropping everything to be a docent for a school group with less than an hour's notice.

Jane Austen Festival Evokes Spirit, Style of Croghans, Clarks



High-style ladies and well-dressed gents. Bonnets with bows and lace-covered fans. Delicate teacups and savory treats. All combine to create an atmosphere that Lucy Clark and Jane Austen alike would find most familiar. It was the fourth annual Jane Austen Festival presented by the Louisville chapter of the Jane Austen Society of North America in conjunction with Locust Grove. More than 1,300 people attended the festivities from across the United States and Canada.

Popular events included the afternoon tea, Regency style show, and a special appearance by Karen Eterovich who presented her one-woman show about Jane Austen, "Cheer for Chawton."



Friends of Locust Grove

Enrollment/Renewal from April 1 through June 30, 2011

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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Helen Bond
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Dr. Mark & Mrs. Susan Bronner

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Susan H. Wilburn
Ted & Verna Wright

Tom Zimmerman

Volunteer Open House

Saturday, September 10
10:00 a.m. — 1:00 p.m.

Looking for a little something to do that's not the same ole-same ole? Why not volunteer at Locust Grove! There are many kinds of activities that you could do, such as leading tours, working with school kids, helping in the garden, meeting folks from all over the world in the Visitors' Center, demonstrating crafts, participating in special events — and so much more.

Our wonderful corps of Locust Grove volunteers give not only of their time — but of their spirit, their energy, and their enthusiasm. You'll have great fun, get to know wonderful people, and feel pleased that you're not only doing something for yourself, but also helping make Historic Locust Grove better than ever.

We hope you'll stop by the Volunteer Open House on Saturday, September 10, anytime between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. You'll hear from current volunteers what it's like to spend time at Locust Grove. If you can't make it to the Open House, just call Program Director **Mary Beth Williams** at (502) 897-9845 or at williams@locustgrove.org.

Volunteers, Friends Tour Presidents' Homes in Historic Virginia



For two glorious days in mid-June, 22 Locust Grove docents, volunteers, and friends immersed themselves in the history and lives of notables who lived on large Virginia plantations. They visited the homes of three U.S. Presidents — Thomas Jefferson's Monticello (above), James Madison's Montpelier (top right), and James Monroe's Ashlawn-Highland — as well as Patrick Henry's home called Scotchtown near Richmond. Program Director **Mary Beth Williams** is already fielding requests for future excursions — and the Volunteer Steering Committee is delighted to take your suggestions!

Many Thanks to Our Recent Donors

Donations Received from April 1, 2011 through June 30, 2011

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.

Donations

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In Memory of Gene Butler

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In Memory of Mary Rodes Lannert

Mr. & Mrs. LaMar Gaston Jr.

In Memory of Emilie S. Smith

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Mr. & Mrs. George E. Stablein

For Collections

Anonymous
Gwynne Potts

Underwriting of 'Art of the Book'

Preston Arts Center
Bonny & Rob Wise

Underwriting of Antiques Market

The Antique Market at
Distillery Commons
The Crazy Daisy Antiques Mall
Crescent Hill Trading Company
Dover House Antiques & Mercantile
Judd & Karen Fults
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Susan Reigler
Downey M. Gray III
Mrs. George E. Stablein
Nugent Sand Company
George Plager

Annual Fund Societies

For people donating \$250 and up to
Historic Locust Grove from April 1, 2011
through June 30, 2011.

Clark Family Society (\$1,000+)

Mr. & Mrs. Donald J. Roth
Dr. & Mrs. William Winkler

Illinois Regiment Society (\$250+)

Leo A. Schwendau
Mr. & Mrs. Wm. King Stubbs,
Marshall & Heather Farrer,
Dace & Ben Maki

Fabulous Family-Friendly Fourth!



The Watters family of St. Matthews was among nearly 300 people from around the country who visited Locust Grove on the Fourth of July. From the left, they are Harrison, Zoe, Candice, Churchill, Steve, and Teddy (asleep in his dad's arms).