[FAII/WINTER 2016]

HISTORIC LOCUST GROVE GROVE GAZETTE



Savvy Costumed Interpreters Enliven Locust Grove's 'Christmastide'

Christmastide is a showcase for Locust Grove's costumed interpreter program, directed by Program Coordinator **Brian Cushing** and assisted by **Amy Liebert**. It stars a cast of volunteers who work tirelessly to grow their knowledge of historical characters and to interact seamlessly with modern-day guests.

Christmastide — held the first weekend in December allows costumed interpreters to take center stage and celebrate their hard work.

"Christmastide is a party!" exclaims Brian. "Guests coming through the door of the house will enter 1816. They'll see the house decorated for the holidays, thanks to the hard



Christmastide at Locust Grove Friday, December 4, 5:30 PM – 9 PM Saturday, December 5, 4 PM – 9 PM

work of our volunteers. They'll find welcoming hosts on the first floor, whist-playing in the Great Parlor, and lively conversation everywhere."

The costumed interpreter program strives to educate visitors about Locust Grove in a way that's different from a regular tour or static displays. "Live interpreters give our visitors a tangible experience," explains Amy. "That's the purpose of our program."

Open auditions are held once or twice a year to create a cast of people who were at Locust Grove in 1816. The costumed interpreters undergo extensive training and research in dialect, period clothing, food and recreational pastimes, care and handling of historic collections, and the history of Locust Grove.

The interpreters attend workshops throughout the year to hone their skills in historical improvisation and their knowledge of world events and society in 1816. Rehearsals train the interpreters to convey that knowledge through first-person improvisation.

The cast goes through its paces with what Brian calls "sensory experiences of daily life." They spend time in the house, play games, eat food in the hearth kitchen, dance, and get to know one another — not just in the early 19th century but in the 21st century as well. "Everyone is portraying a family member of someone else in the cast, so Christmastide is like a big family reunion!" adds Brian. cast has used the guiding question, "What did a party look like 200 years ago and how do we recreate that?" Other museums and events, such as the Dickens Fair in California, provided inspiration for presentation and decoration. But everything else comes from the Locust Grove archives and meticulous research.

"We have such a talented group of people," says Brian. "I'm looking forward to seeing them become their characters — a skill that takes a special kind of dedication."

Locust Grove is fortunate to have costumed interpreters from all walks of life — from teachers to information technology specialists to wig builders to students. All are united by a love of history and performance. Everyone, from **Ted Wright** as aged George Rogers Clark to **Jocelyn Hiner** as young Eloise Bullitt, is committed to serving up a wonderful experience for guests. Jocelyn, one of our youngest interpreters, has been heard to cheerfully remark, "I'm going to have fun — but mostly it's about the guests' experience."

Christmastide is also one of the few times guests get to see the house at night — adding a special lantern-lit magic to the evening.

We hope to see you on December 4 and 5 for one of Locust Grove's most wonderful times of the year.

Many cast members make their own costumes, which involves many hours of dedicated research. **Heather Hiner**, a Locust Grove volunteer with three family members in the cast, researched historic dress, shared her research on historical pastimes, and taught historical games to cast members.

Melissa Alexander, who is getting her master's degree in public history, contributes her skills in hearth cooking. Hannah Stoppel has a love of historical costuming and is a professional wig maker. Brandon Vigliarolo uses his skills as a writer and actor to portray Dr. John Croghan in 1816.

Focusing on presentation and authenticity, the Locust Grove

[FAII/WINTER 2016]

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Director's Letter – Carol Ely, Ph.D.

This summer at Locust Grove was an amazing run of new, expanded, and reconfigured events on a pace that a colleague at another local site described as "punitive." Our attendance in the past year, 2014-15, jumped up by 17 percent, due to the great programs, increased visibility in the community, luck with weather, and a strong push in marketing especially through social media Cultural Pass visitors filled the Visitors' Center, grounds, and house every Sunday and Monday. Rental events and weddings packed every weekend evening, with set-up and take-down a constant factor.



Two entirely new weekend programs - the Historical Wedding and Picnic in July and the *Hemp Festival* in August – broke new ground for us with visitors. And the extraordinary run of new smaller programs every single Thursday evening for 15 weeks let us test new ideas, new partnerships, and new audiences. That's in addition to our regular First Wednesday Lectures, Antiques Fair, free Fourth of July, and Summer Used Book Sale. Oh, and expanded hours with seven regular tours per day in place of the usual six.

I want to acknowledge the ingenuity, sheer fortitude, exhilaration, and exhaustion of all who participated in making our summer expansive and varied - staff, interns, docents, event volunteers, and costumed interpreters, all of whom successfully hosted and educated thousands of visitors and reached out to new audiences day after day. (See article, next page.)

Did the momentum from the summer slow down once September arrived? Not at all.

In partnership with the Berry Center, on a lovely late summer evening in the garden, we hosted An Evening With Mark Bittman, New York Times food opinion writer, cookbook writer, and food activist. After the guests enjoyed outstanding hors d'oeuvres from chef Kathy Cary, Mr. Bittman spoke in a conversational format with Mayor Greg Fischer and Mary Berry about the crisis in farming, the problems of getting healthy local food to the community, and the economics of the American food system. With many Louisville activists in the food movement in the audience, from farmers to chefs to entrepreneurs, possible solutions were discussed by the very people who are positioned to make change happen. Thanks to the support of loyal sponsors, the evening was a great success.

Just a week later, Locust Grove hosted another distinguished audience — this time museum and history professionals who were gathered in Louisville for the annual conference of the American Association for State and Local History. The kickoff event was an evening dinner held in Locust Grove's garden, with candlelight, costumed interpreters in character on the site, docents stationed throughout the house, and featuring our own bourbon punch - Col. Croghan's Cup.

Our visitors said they were "blown away" by the quality and sophistication of Croghan's and Clark's world and our presentation of it. It was a fitting wrap-up for all the months of effort by the Locust Grove community to put this site in the place where it deserves to be - in the center of the conversation.

and Shy

Locust Grove Closed in January As we did last year, we're closing Locust Grove in January 2016 for cleaning, repairs, and planning. The staff will be on site most of the time, but please call ahead if you plan to come by. We'll continue to answer the phone, take reservations, and answer queries.

Energetic, Hard-Working Staff, Volunteers Made the Summer Fun Happen

By Carol Elv, Ph.D., Executive Director, Historic Locust Grove

There are many people who worked tirelessly to make our multitude of summer events a success. First, our staff:

MARY BETH WILLIAMS, who scheduled all those docents and other volunteers and made sure that the quality and integrity of our presentation never flagged.

JENNIFER JANSEN, who ruled the new POS (cash register) system and remained cordial but firm with the brides, all the while keeping the Visitors' Center and the museum store in top form.

DEBBIE SCOTT, who managed not only the flow of cash in and out every day and got it all to balance correctly, but also found us new sources of revenue and thanked all the donors.

BRIAN CUSHING, who created and managed many of those new programs, from designing an 1822 wedding to arranging bourbon and beer tastings and hemp-spinning demonstrations.

SARAH SUTHERLAND, who not only grew Louisville's first hemp crop since WWII, she simultaneously kept acres of gardens looking good for our guests.

BONNY WISE, whose promotions kept the visitors coming and whose skilled catering made them glad they came.

CHRIS JONES and JOHN BATEMAN, who kept turning the site around from one event to yet



and visitors.

educator and docent.

LANGLEY, LYNN LAMB and (again) HANNAH ZIMMERMAN, our weekend



Docent George Plager (far right) enjoys watching a group of Cultural Pass children practice rolling a hoop, taught y costumed interpreter Jocelyn Hiner (purple dress).

another, keeping us looking good while we hosted an unprecedented number of events

HANNAH ZIMMERMAN, who made the Cultural Pass visitors happy, the weekend guests smile, and crafted a savvy social media strategy and delightful blog for Locust Grove as well.

DIANE STATLER, who is here for the schools, here to demonstrate her hearth cooking chops, and here whenever we need her as an

ALBA JENNINGS, BOB BOONE, TRICIA

managers, who valiantly wrestled with the POS system and won, handled the endless phone reservations, and made our weekend visitors welcome and excited by their visits. On the website TripAdvisor, Locust Grove ranks 16th out of more than 125 Louisville destinations, and it's in large part due to their skills.

Thanks also to our summer interns and temporary staff: Melissa Alexander, Hearth Cooking and Program Assistant **KAITLYN MARKERT,** Archives Consultant **BAILEY MAZIK.** Curatorial Assistant SAMANTHA HAGAN, Program Assistant **SARAH HAGAN, Education Assistant**

We must also acknowledge the commitment and creativity of two remarkable families who made our summer Cultural Pass program a great experience for kids and families and who continue to light up our costumed interpreter program:

THE HINER FAMILY (HEATHER, JASON, NOAH, AND JOCELYN), who were here almost every Cultural Pass day.

THE STEVENSON FAMILY (KELLY, KEITH, AND Tom), who always come through for Locust Grove in many ways.

The Food Network Visits Locust Grove

Damaris Phillips, Louisvillian and host of the Food Network's Southern at Heart show, learns archery with the assistance of some of Locust Grove's costumed interpreters – (from the left) **Amy Liebert, Hannah Stoppel, Mia** Seitz, Melissa Alexander, and Chris Leuken. Damaris was the winner of The Next Food Network Star, Season Nine competition in 2013 and is now in the third season of her show.

Damaris visited Locust Grove on a steamy August morning where the crew filmed the ladies practicing their archery — an acceptable sporting activity for well-bred women of the era. It was part of a segment on early 19th century cuisine titled "Arrow to my Heart," scheduled to premiere on Sunday, Nov. 8, at 12 noon on the Food Network (repeated throughout the week). Locust Grove's summer intern and hearth-cooking expert Melissa Alexander also joined Damaris in her kitchen studio to talk about food in the early 1800s.

C A L E N D A R

New Sofa Enhances the Great Parlor

There's a new acquisition in the second floor Great Parlor — a Hepplewhite-style sofa, donated by Mrs. Barry Bingham Jr. The mahogany sofa is attributed to Baltimore's famous Quaker cabinet maker, John Needles



(1786–1878). This piece appears to date to early in Needles' career and reflects the latter end of our interpretive time period, toward the end of William Croghan's life.

The family had a connection to the mid-Atlantic region with daughter Ann Croghan's marriage to Thomas Jesup in 1822, just before William's death. Ann and her new husband, who served as Quartermaster General of the U.S. Army, settled into life in Washington City. Lucy Croghan lived with the Jesups for a time before returning to Locust Grove.

Despite residing in our nation's capital, Jesup had been fond of Kentucky, writing in 1819, "The society of Kentucky is more to my taste than that of the Atlantic.... They have here, more of the frippery of fashion, the trappings of State, and, perhaps, of the refinements of literature than they have in the West; but they are without that manliness of mind, that enthusiasm and chivalry which form so prominent a feature in the character of Kentucky."

With our newly acquired sofa, we are now bringing some of that "Atlantic fashion" to Kentucky.

First Wednesday Lecture Series

Our lecture series offers a variety of interesting speakers and unusual topics that relate to the lives of the Croghans, Clarks, 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

Annual Holiday Concert

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2, 1 PM



This annual concert by the Louisville Dulcimer **Society** will kick off our holiday season. Members play holiday favorites on Kentucky's official musical instrument — the Appalachian lap dulcimer — along with hammered dulcimer, banjo, fiddle, guitar, and more as the audience is invited to sing along. Arrive early to get your seat and enjoy the seasonal treats prepared especially for you by the Lecture Ladies and Bakers.

Kentucky By Design

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1 PM

From 1935 to 1943, the Federal Art Project (FAP)



provided work for unemployed artists to create art for government buildings such as post offices and courthouses.

The FAP also trained new artists in surveying and recording the history of American material culture. The result was an index of American design from 37 states, including Kentucky. But not even parts of the index ever were published. Until now.

Editor Andrew Kelley has compiled Kentucky's contributions to the index, cataloging prime

examples of the commonwealth's

decorative arts and pairing the original FAP watercolors with contemporary photographs of the same or similar artifacts. Louisvillian Allan Weiss, who wrote the introduction to the book, will share some of these examples. We'll have copies of *Kentucky by* **Design: The Decorative Arts and American Culture** available for purchase and autographing.

Museum Store Holiday Sale

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 27 — SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6 **DURING VISITORS' CENTER HOURS**

For special Christmas gifts without traffic hassles, visit our museum store. For 10 days after Thanksgiving, you'll receive a **20 percent** discount on all purchases. The museum store carries a wide array of books, toys, stationery, and Kentucky-made products. The museum store is open Monday through Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and on Sundays, 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.



Christmastide

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4, 5:30 PM - 9 PM SATURDAY DECEMBER 5, 2015, 4 PM - 9 PM

In the historic house and its hearth kitchen, you can celebrate the holidays in 1816 style. The Clark and Croghan families will be welcoming guests to Locust Grove — with conversation, card-playing, music, and dance demonstrations in the house and bites of delicious food in the hearth kitchen. Back in the Visitors' Center, it's 2015, where you'll find holiday refreshments, crafts for children aged 3 and older from 6-8p.m., music, dancing, and a special holiday book sale. Admission: \$8 adults, children 12 and under free.

Painted Floor Cloth Workshop

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY FEBRUARY 6 AND 7, 10 AM - 4 PM

Floor cloths are as practical today as they were 200 years ago. Virginia Tucker, owner of Louisville's The Virginia Floor Cloth and Textiles Co., will guide you as you create your own full-color floor cloth. You'll learn how to frame, seal, measure, paint - and you'll finish your 24-x 30-inch floor cloth by the end of the class.



EMILIE STRONG SMITH CHAMBER MUSIC CONCERTS

This series offers concertgoers a unique opportunity. Patrons delight in music that the Clarks and Croghans would have heard in the room where they most likely would have enjoyed it — the second-floor Great Parlor of the historic house. Refreshments are at 5:00 p.m.; the concert in the Great Parlor begins at 5:30 p.m. Individual concert tickets are \$20. Please call Locust Grove at (502) 897-9845 for reservations and further information.

Musical Roots of Dickens' 'A Christmas Carol'

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6, 5:30 PM

The Locust Grove Chamber Musicians present music associated with and inspired by Christmas books and plays in early 19th-century melodrama. Music of Mozart, Bayly, Playford, and others.

Songs of Love, Loss, and Longing

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 5:30 PM

As prelude to Valentine's Day, Jeffrey Noonan and Lindsay Adams bring us an evening of music for voice and lutes from 17th-century England and France. Music by Dowland, Wilson, Lanier, Lambert, and others.



All supplies are included; bring your lunch on both days. Minimum class size is 10; maximum, 25. You must register by January 29. Cost is \$135 per student. Please call Locust Grove at (502) 897-9845 to register.



Spirit Award Winner: **Shirley Dumesnil**

For more than four decades, Shirley Dumesnil has been giving of her talents, energy, knowledge, intelligence, and support to Locust Grove along with those famous oatmeal raisin cookies she makes for the First Wednesday lecture every month. Countless visitors and school children were fortunate to have Shirley as their guide. For these and



many other reasons, the Volunteer Steering Committee selected Shirley as this quarter's Spirit Award Winner.

Over the years, Shirley has shown her dedication and commitment to Locust Grove in numerous ways. She began giving tours in the early 1970s, when Locust Grove had been open to the public only a few years. "We had just the house back then," recalls Shirley. "We'd sit on a bench in the hallway, waiting for visitors to arrive."

Shirley has been a member of Locust Grove's board for many years, serving a term as president starting in 1976. She says she has enjoyed helping to further Locust Grove's mission through the board.

"I'd serve two consecutive terms, take a rest, and then be elected for two more terms. I'm now one of the 'Directors Emeriti,' which means I'm still involved but do not have a vote. I'm delighted still to be able to contribute whatever I can."

Shirley is a long-time member and current chair of Locust Grove's Education Committee. "She is a big supporter of our educational programming — and our monthly lecture series in particular," says Mary Beth Williams, curator of collections and education. "She also helped organize Locust Grove's first used book sale."

Shirley says the lecture series had a "wobbly start," and is delighted it now has a such a loyal following. She adds that the semi-annual book sale is successful beyond its first hopes. "And it is so useful for those of us trying to find good homes for the waytoo-many books we have."

Although Shirley has stepped back from doing tours, you'll still see her helping out at special events — even serving shifts at the parking lot gate. Her quiet, kind ways endear her to all she meets.

"Shirley is one of the sweetest and nicest people I have the pleasure of working with at Locust Grove," adds Mary Beth. "Her knowledge and passion for Locust Grove is evident to anyone who speaks with her. "

Adds HLG Executive Director, **Carol Ely**, "Shirley has that rare combination of a kind heart and a sharp, honest mind that adds up to wisdom. We all love and admire her."

Shirley adds that she is much more indebted to Locust Grove than vice versa. "It is a wonderful place with every intention and ability to be even more so," she states. "We say we want to be known as the 'Mount Vernon of the West.' But really, I want Mount Vernon to be known as the 'Locust Grove of the East.' "

Friends of Locust Grove

Enrollment/Renewal from July 1 through September 30, 2015

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 GROVELIE YOU WOULD 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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GRC Celebrates Bob Pilkington's 90th Birthday

Our traveling cardboard "George Rogers Clark" joined Locust Grove volunteers at a party to help celebrate the birthday of one of GRC's biggest fans – docent **Bob Pilkington**. Bob's legendary storytelling brings General Clark's Revolutionary War exploits to life for the multitude of Locust Grove visitors fortunate enough to take one of Bob's tours.

Says Bob, "In 90 years of birthday celebrations, this one was my most memorable - thanks to my HLG buds of vintage, gender, and/ or persuasion. You friendship is about the greatest gift God has given me. My heartfelt joy and sincere thanks."

M. Deanna O'Daniel Mr. & Mrs. Douglas Owen Jr. Eugenia & John Potter

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Donations received from July 1 through September 30, 2015

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Annual Fund Societies

For people donating \$250 and up to Historic Locust Grove from July 1 through September 30, 2015

George Rogers Clark Society (\$5,000+) Dr. & Mrs. B. Preston Thomas

Lucy & William Croghan Society (\$2,500 - \$4,999) Mr. & Mrs. Edward Rhawn Nancy & Doug McFarland

Mrs. William N. Nash Susan & Scott Norris



August 9, for our first-ever

Hemp Festival. They ate hemp foods, listened to speakers discuss Kentucky agriculture, toured the historic house, browsed the booths featuring hemp goods ranging from clothing to canvas to supplements, watched demonstrations, and enjoyed a concert by Appalatin. And all marveled at Locust Grove's small patch of industrial hemp — the first grown in Louisville since WWII - tall, lush, and beginning to bud.

Mose Putney, who supplied Locust Grove with its

industrial hemp seeds, was on hand with his family

to promote the growing of hemp in Kentucky.

Festival Highlights

Hot, steamy

discourage

the 1,300-

plus people

who visited

Locust Grove

on Sunday,

weather didn't

Visitors learned that the uses for hemp are endless. Hemp oil can be used as food and fuel. and hemp seeds are incredibly healthy and make great bird seed — as Locust Grove's gardener Sarah Sutherland discovered when doves began to flock to our hemp patch.

Hemp is renewable, setting the stage for an environmentally positive economic boom for Kentucky. The wide variety of products that come from hemp could lessen the need for certain synthetics and chemicals, such as those needed to make wood pulp into paper. Hemp also can be used for cloth, paper, rope, canvas, and construction materials. Plus, attending a hemp festival on a sunny day is great fun.

Mr. & Mrs. Michael Mountjoy

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Sponsorships Help Sustain Locust Grove's Programs, Events

Sponsors make Locust Grove's special events and programs possible. They underwrite our educational programs and even help maintain the historic buildings.

Businesses, corporations, and organizations are especially invited to put their support behind a program for which they'll receive full acknowledgment and credit in all of our publicity, publications, and at the events.

YOU CAN SUPPORT OR SUSTAIN -

A specific event — Used Book Sales, Gardeners' Fair, Antiques Markets, Hemp Festival, free Fourth of July, 18th Century Market Fair, or Christmastide

A series of events — First Wednesday Lecture series, chamber theatre series, cooking workshops, among others.

An educational program Cultural Pass (free summer admission for Louisville children), a special one-time lecture or presentation, free admission for qualifying schools' field trips.

A special building — the Dairy, the Smokehouse, the Spring House, and more.

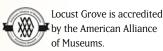
> We greatly appreciate all the individuals, businesses, corporations, and foundations who currently are avid sponsors of these events, and invite others to join in this sponsorship support.

If you'd like your donation to be directed to a particular area of interest, let us know. We'll make Locust Grove a great fit for you or your organization.



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

www.locustgrove.org

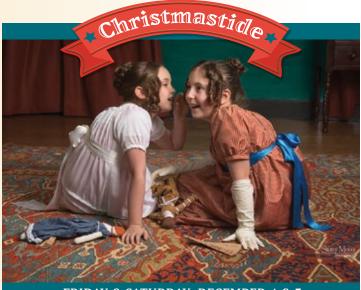




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FRIDAY & SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4 & 5

[FAll/WINTER 2016]



Rare Bourbon Auction To Benefit Historic Locust Grove!

12 NOON, FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13 - 10 PM, SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22

As a fundraiser for the Locust Grove farm distillery project, Julian Van Winkle and family have donated five bottles of hard-to-find "Pappy Van Winkle" bourbon to be auctioned entirely for the benefit of Locust Grove.

If you are one of the thousands of true bourbon aficionados who have been waiting to get your hands on a bottle of this very limited edition of "Pappy" — that's the Old Rip Van Winkle Distillery's Family Reserve bourbons — here's your chance. The online auction runs November 13 – November 22 through Wally's Wine Auctions in New York. The company also is donating its usual share of the proceeds to Locust Grove. For further information, go to www.wallysauctions.com.

Locust Grove plans to re-create a farm-scale distillery in the otherwise unused garden shed building at the edge of the garden quads. The distilling process will be demonstrated and the role of distilling in the life of early Kentucky farms will be presented through exhibits, costumed interpreter programs, and

demonstrations, but the process will not produce actual whiskey. Sorry, you won't be able to purchase "Old Locust Grove" on site anytime soon!



HISTORIC LOCUST GROVE ROVE GAZETTE