[SUMMER 2017]

HISTORIC LOCUST GROVE **GROVE GAZETTE**



Small Farm Distillery Brought to Life

n the weekend of May 20-21, visitors to Locust Grove had the unique experience of seeing. hearing, and even smelling how distilling was done on Kentucky farms in the days before bourbon

At our new full-scale re-creation of an early 19th century small farm distillery (which will be open at selected times throughout the year), live demonstrations show the process of making whiskey and brandy. Our distillery is outfitted with reproduction equipment copied from period originals by expert fabricators, including Louisville's Vendome Copper & Brass.

Although the process and stages of producing spirits are demonstrated and the history and science of distilling are interpreted, the Locust Grove Farm Distillery is educational in purpose and does not actually produce alcohol.

Locust Grove's Program Director Brian Cushing learned the old methods of distilling through handson experience. "George Washington's Mount Vernon has one of the only distilleries that truly produces spirits by the methods that were used during the late 18th to early 19th centuries," Brian explains.





Sidney Edwards stirs the mash as Brian Cushing observes.

Most 18th and early 19th century Kentucky farms distilled for their own use, so the Croghans likely produced spirits — whiskey and brandy — for their household and for neighborhood trade.

The still was probably operated in part by enslaved workers, who comprised the majority of the work force at Locust Grove in the early 19th century. A program is being developed with the African-American Theatre program at the University of Louisville to help bring that story to life.

> Steve Bashore, head distiller and director of historic trades at George Washington's Mount Vernon, was on hand throughout the grand opening weekend. He shared his experiences from his years immersed in the real-life practice of early distilling techniques.



Steve Bashore

Demonstrations of distilling will be offered periodically – during events and festivals and by appointment for interested groups. The next public demonstration of our small farm distillery will be during the Jane Austen Festival, July 14–16.

The building, equipment, and exhibit will be on permanent display for all site visitors to view starting this summer, although demonstrations will not be given every day. The distillery exhibit is housed in a repurposed log building at the end of the gardens at Locust Grove. However, a more likely original location would have been near the Croghan's grist mill on land that is no longer part of the historic site property.

Funding for the farm distillery project came from Kentucky's bourbon industry's founding families, with additional

support from Brown-Forman and other distillers. "The only way to actually learn the trade was to go there and do it. We could not have achieved the understanding of the process that we have now without Mount Vernon's distillers' generous sharing of their time and experience."

Locust Grove's first owner, Major William Croghan, was associated with the purchase of a 64-gallon still in 1808. Lucy Croghan would have known distilling from her parent's home, Mulberry Hill, and her brother Jonathan also had a still at his Trough Springs house.

The Croghans owned a grist mill and had extensive fruit orchards. Turning grains and fruit into spirits was crucial to preserving and transporting both in the days before refrigeration.

Sally Van Winkle Campbell, who led the

fundraising effort, says, "Thanks to the generosity and enthusiasm of our donors and everyone who has worked on the project, Locust Grove will have an even deeper story to tell - bringing back to its roots an industry that is now flourishing and is a beacon for Kentucky."

For more information on the farm distillery and distilling programs, contact Brian at bcushing@locustgrove.org or call 502-897-9845.



Sally Campbell with Brian Cushing

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There are so many ways that we can communicate with our

audiences these days. Newsletters, postcards, print and radio ads, press releases, road signs, Facebook, YouTube, Twitter, Instagram, email, posters. And, with the possible exception of skywriting, I think we cover them all at Locust Grove.

Last year we introduced Program Guides for Spring, Summer, and Fall — designed to be distributed on-site and at outside venues and events. It was to alternate with issues of *Grove Gazette*, which then went to three times per year.

Now we have a better idea. In Winter 2018, *Grove Gazette* will return to its quarterly status, mailed to you as always. And we're adding a Program Guide for Winter, as well. Even though we're closed to the public in January, we still have great events in November, December, February, and early March. So now those events will have their own Guide. It's all a part of our goal to better communicate with you and our public.

You should know that the *Grove Gazette* (now that we are mentioning this very publication) is made possible by the creative work of volunteer/publications professional **Jeannie Litterst Vezeau** — recent winner of Locust Grove's Audrey Pilkington Award for extraordinary service by a volunteer at Locust Grove. (*See story on page 7.*) Four times a year, Jeannie drafts a story list — then makes sure that the staff actually follows through to write articles, outline the events and programs, and provide donor lists, photos, and other materials.

She swiftly and accurately edits it all into the copy that you see, hounding us for details when she needs to, abbreviating our wordiness, and adding the color and life that we've left out of our prose. Her own pictures frequently fill the photo slots. The rough layout then goes to our brilliant designer, **Marilyn Motsch**, who creates the final layout. Jeannie proofs and corrects the

Gazette until it's good to go. We are never going to allow her to step down as editor. Thanks, Jeannie,

Carl Sly

Historic Locust Grove Board News

We sincerely thank outgoing Board members **John Hoagland**, **David Hook**, and **James Statler** for their service, and we extend a warm welcome to these new board members whose terms start on July I:

from all of us at Locust Grove!

Chris Chappell — Director of Business Development with PCA Pharmacy and a Locust Grove neighbor. He enjoys Locust Grove's wooded trails, gardens, and grounds and appreciates the preservation of its historic buildings. He's especially focused on Locust Grove's capital campaign.

Bill Grover — Global Executive Compensation Leader at YUM Brands!' human resources department. A native of New Albany, Bill has a strong interest in history and in General Clark in particular. His parents' home in New Albany has General Clark's name on the deed. He has served on the board of Hope Southern Indiana which provides food and other emergency services for people.

Frances Lee Jasper — owner of Frances Lee Jasper Oriental Rugs. She has served on several boards, including Whitehall, Wellstone Hospital in Jeffersonville, and the Kentucky Humane Society. She is currently serving on Locust Grove's Allocations and Collections committee.

Brenda Tuckson — A former registered nurse who has worked in dialysis and renal transplant and a Locust Grove neighbor, Brenda has been involved as a volunteer at Locust Grove for several years and currently is the volunteer coordinator for our used book sales.

Spirit Award Winner: George Plager



When this issue's Spirit Award winner **George Plager** retired from UPS 16 years ago, he was looking for somewhere to volunteer. He and wife **Marti** had visited Locust Grove severa times, "and the site just spoke t us," says George. "I decided this was where I wanted to volunte

Curator of Collections and Education **Mary Beth William** says that the Volunteer Steering Committee selected George

because of his dedication and reliability. "George helps with both walkvisitors every Wednesday afternoon as well as with school groups. And recently, he's begun demonstrating period woodworking for field trips."

During George's training class in 2001, long-time docent **Nancy Lee** sa that Locust Grove "will get into your blood." He thought that was "a bit over the top — but I was wrong!" laughs George. "Volunteering at Locus Grove does capture you, and I am loving every minute of my time here.

225-Year Old Historic House To Get Structural Work

William Croghan's Locust Grove is now about 225 years old, and read for a bit of repair this summer.

An engineering study begun in 2011 showed stresses and vulnerabilit in the structure and fabric of the brick house. Follow-up work by preservationists and engineers led to recommendations for structure stabilization and repair and for protection of all exterior surfaces.

Working closely with Metro Parks' personnel, including architect **David Wilding**, HLG's Buildings committee laid out a four-phase process to ensure the stability of the structure for the next decades. With the help of former Metro Councilman **Kelly Downard** and the support of the Metro Council, we now have funds to begin the work. Fundraising will continue, however, until we raise the full cost of all four stages of preservation.

Starting on July 17, crews under the supervision of local preservation architect, **Christopher Quirk**, will begin the delicate task of drilling through the masonry on the east- and west-end gable walls to insert braces to attach the brickwork to the wooden structure within. They then insert rods to bind the end walls to each other. When that's don you'll see stars — cast iron ones — on the outside of the building.

While the crew is working, there will be some disruption to the norm operations of the site. On the exterior, lifts will be used during work hours, then parked away from the building. Inside the house, floor

d	A few years ago George, along with wife Marti, began hosting the Emilie Strong Smith Chamber Music Concert series — organizing and serving refreshments to subscribers before each concert. (Marti often bakes the treats they serve.) George also is on Historic Locust Grove's Board of Directors, serving on the Grounds committee.
ral to is eer."	George adds that "somehow" he got "caught up" with the Gardeners' Fair about six years ago. "I guess it appealed to me since Marti and I have had vegetable gardens for years," he says. "I grew up on a farm in Iowa, so gardening just comes naturally."
is g <-in	In college, George majored in history; but had never directly used his degree. He served 21 years (four active and 17 active reserves) in U. S. Naval Aviation. When he left active duty, he used his aviation training to work in flight operations administration for TWA, Florida Express, and UPS.
d, ." aid	George is delighted that now Locust Grove offers a way "to delve deeper into history in a hands-on fashion." Several years ago, he created a presentation designed to introduce various community groups to Locust Grove and its history.
ust e."	"We are very fortunate that George brings both his expertise and energy to Locust Grove," adds Mary Beth. "Thank you, George."

ly	boards will have to come up. We'll need to remove rugs and move or cover furnishings, which may temporarily close some rooms to tours.		
ies al	The staff will work closely with the engineers to plan each day's activities, making sure that visitors can see rooms of the house either directly or with our iPad-based Google tour or other digital means. Our staff will describe to visitors what the day's work includes and why we're doing it. That		
	way, the interpretation of the house's preservation will be part of the tour. This stabilization work is expected to take six to eight weeks.		
ı g t	Once the stabilization is complete, Phase 2 kicks in — "sealing the envelope" of the house. That means filling in all the cracks in the mortar, brick, and stone of the house's exterior.		
/'ll ne, nal	Still to look forward to — Phase 3, a new roof; and Phase 4, sealing the foundation. We'll get to those phases once fundraising for each phase		
ected o	is complete. The slight bowing that has been on the sides of the house will be pilized by the work this summer		

CALENDAR

FIRST WEDNESDAY LECTURE SERIES

A variety of interesting speakers and unusual topics that relate to the lives of the Croghans, Clarks, and the region. Held on the first Wednesday of each month, except January and May. Desserts and beverages served at 1:00 p.m., lecture immediately follows. Please note the new cost – \$6, or \$4 for members.

Telling The Story: Native American Presence In Kentucky

WEDNESDAY, JULY 5, 1 PM

Ioin Tressa Brown. Native American Heritage Coordinator with the Kentucky Heritage Council, to learn about the history and contributions



Native Americans have made to Kentucky's rich cultural heritage, and how lingering stereotypes continue today. The Kentucky Native American Heritage Commission was established in 1996 to recognize and promote Native American contributions and influence in Kentucky's history and culture.

A History of Henry Clay in 25 Objects

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 2, 1 PM

Curators tell stories through objects. The curator of Henry Clay's Ashland in Lexington, Eric Brooks, will explore the life and legacy of Henry Clay through 25 objects from Ashland's collection. This presentation weaves together an amazing collection and the incredible story it tells.



Cave Hill Cemetery – Scenic, Historic, Distinctive

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 1 PM Long-time Cave Hill tour guide Steve Wiser will give fascinating facts on the history, beauty, and notable residents of this distinguished landscape. From George Rogers Clark and Col. Harland Sanders to picturesque memorials like the Satterwhite and Irvin, Steve will provide the details of these individuals and monument designs. And Steve will provide the clues to finding your way out of Cave Hill. Steve has been giving tours of Cave Hill for almost 30 years. He is also a local architect and president of the Louisville Historical League.

The Clarks of Kentucky

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 4, 1 PM

Few families loom so large in Kentucky's pioneer history as the Clarks. Revolutionary War hero George Rogers Clark is famous, as is his brother, explorer William Clark. But there were eight other Clark siblings who contributed in various ways to not only Kentucky's but the nation's history. Join the Filson Historical Society's Jim Holmberg as he discusses the entire Clark family – from the famous George Rogers — "Hannibal of the West," to the baby of the family, Fanny — the "Black-eyed Beauty of Kentucky."



Cultural Pass Tuesdays EVERY TUESDAY, 10 AM-4:30 PM Kids again can participate in Louisville's Cultural Pass program at Locust Grove this summer – every Tuesday from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. through August 8. They (with one adult per student) will get a special house tour, can talk with costumed interpreters, play historic games, and do some fun 19th century crafts.

Fourth of July Celebration — Free Admission!

JULY TUESDAY, JULY 4, 10 AM-4:30 PM

- 2 It's Independence

THROUGH AUGUST 8

Day, 1816-style. Our first-person interpreters take you back 201 years as the Clark and Croghan families celebrate our country's independence. Hear readings of the Declaration of Independence throughout the day, play children's games, and tour the historic house. In the Visitors' Center, stock up on summer-reading books - fiction, mysteries, literature, and more

–with all books priced at \$1 or \$2. A food truck and gelato vendor will be on site or you can bring a picnic lunch to enjoy on the grounds. Sponsored by Crowe-Horwath LLP and A Friend, in honor of The Society of the Cincinnati.

Jane Austen Festival

back cover.)

FRIDAY, JULY 14, 6 PM-9 PM 14-16 SATURDAY & SUNDAY, JULY 15 & 16, 10 AM-5 PM

The largest Jane Austen Festival in North America! (See story and photographs from previous festivals on the

Big August Used Book Sale

MEMBERS-ONLY PREVIEW 17-20 THURSDAY, AUGUST 17, 5 PM - 7:30 PM **OPEN TO THE PUBLIC** FRIDAY, AUGUST 18, 10 AM - 7 PM SATURDAY & SUNDAY. AUGUST 19 & 20, 10 AM - 4:30 PM

All the nooks and crannies of Locust Grove's Audubon room will be filled with more than 23,000 books — all waiting for you at our big August Used Book Sale. They're sorted into 30-some categories

and displayed for easy shopping. Books, donated by readers from across the region, are \$1 and \$2 -- with special ones \$3 and up. And all are great bargains! All proceeds from our book sales support Locust Grove's continued educational and preservation projects.





Watershed Music Festival at Locust Grove

SATURDAY, AUGUST 26,11 AM-9 PM

This all-day festival will feature nine bands playing traditional Kentucky music – covering those unique genres that define Kentucky's rich musical heritage. (The schedule and bands will be posted on Locust Grove's website - www. locustgrove.org. — as soon as it's finalized.)

The main stage will be at the side of the historic house. Please bring your own lawn chairs and blankets for seating. We'll have a jam tent, and various community and non-profit groups will have booths. Food and drink will be available for sale, or bring your own food. Various admission packages will be available; check the website for details. (Event will be canceled in case of inclement weather.)

History Cruise for Members and Volunteers



Antiquarian and Collectible Book Sale



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, **SEPTEMBER 23.** 10 AM-4:30 PM (WITH \$8 ADMISSION 10 AM-4:30 PM (FREE ADMISSION) TO ANTIQUES MARKET)



This special show and sale includes dealers in antiquarian, out-of-print, remaindered, fine used, and other special books — at all prices and in all categories. You'll find books about collecting, art, decorative arts, architecture, design, and much more

Fall Antiques Market



From mahogany breakfronts to ornate sterling teapots... from child's toys to china teacups.. from the 18th century to mid-20th-century modern — the Fall Antiques Market has something for all tastes and every budget. Dozens of individual dealers from around the region will offer fine and country furniture textiles, jewelry, ephemera silver, and much more. Proceeds

support the continued operation and preservation of Locust Grove. Food and drink will be available for purchase. Admission: \$8 adults; free for ages 12 and under.



SEPT 24



Scotland, Ireland, Canada, and America - from African-American influences in mountain ballads to the English sea chanteys of New Orleans. Lance's show is an eclectic mix of music spanning continents and centuries, with a modern flair that reflects the musical tradition of collaboration.

SUMMER THURSDAY CONCERT SERIES

Enjoy music and camaraderie outdoors in a historic setting at our new Summer Thursday Concert Series. Tickets are \$5 (\$4 for Locust Grove members), purchased at the door. Free admission for ages 12 and under. A special artifact from Locust Grove's collection will be showcased at each concert. Food, beer, and wine will be available for sale. Bring your own blankets and chairs — and let the music speak.

Keltricity

JUNE THURSDAY, JUNE 29, 29 6:30 PM-8:30 PM

Keltricity is a Celtic World band based in Louisville. They play contemporary, traditional, and eclectic Celtic-influenced music from Ireland, Cape Breton, Scotland, England, Brittany, New England, French Canada, and wherever Celtic peoples settled. English Country Dancers will be on hand to teach interested beginners this traditional dance.



Lance Minnis

THURSDAY, JULY 27, 27 6:30 PM-8:30 PM

Lance Minnis' love of music was rekindled in 2004 by the performances of The Clancy Brothers — and soon he was sharing that music with friends around a campfire. Since then, Lance has delved into the heritage music of England,

Lance Minnis & Friends

AUG AUGUST 31, 31 6:30 PM-8:30 PM



Lance Minnis and Friends will perform a variety of tunes and songs from Kentucky, Appalachia, the Maritime Provinces, and the British Isles. Expect rousing chanties, wistful lullabies, magical ballads, and fiddle tunes to make your heart race.

National Historic Landmarks 'Pass'

Locust Grove is one of the eight National Historic Landmarks in Louisville, six of which are open to the public. This new program is designed to encourage people to visit the public ones. You can pick up your pass at any of the six public sites and have it stamped during your visit. Then take your completed pass to the Louisville Visitor Center at 301 South 4th Street for a free gift.

Along with Locust Grove, Louisville's other public Landmarks are Actors Theatre, Belle of Louisville, Churchill Downs, Life-Saving Station #10, and the Louisville Water Company Pumping Station No.1 and Water Tower. (The two Landmarks not open are the U.S. Marine Hospital and Zachary Taylor's Boyhood Home.)

Friends of Locust Grove

Enrollment/Renewal from April 1 through June 30, 2017

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 WOULD LIKE TO BECOME A FRIEND, PLEASE GO ONLINE TO <u>WWW.LOCUSTGROVE.ORG</u>, OR CALL US AT (502) 897-9845 FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND DETAILS.

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Donations received from April 1 through June 30, 2017

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For people donating \$250 and up to Historic Locust Grove from April 1 through June 30, 2016

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Lucy & William Croghan Society (\$2,500 - \$4,999) Susan S. Means

Clark Family Society (\$1,000-\$2,499) Tyler Thompson

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Illinois Regiment Society (\$250-\$999)

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2017 18th C. Market Fair Sponsors

Bonny & Rob Wise John Marshall Chapter DAR

In Memoriam

«Spencer Harper Jr.« «Noel Pinkney» We note with sadness the recent death of members of our Locust Grove family. We treasure their generous contributions to Locust

Grove of their time, energy, support, and enthusiasm.

Locust Grove's Museum Store Is Now Online



Locust Grove's on-line museum store is now open. Memberships, photography passes, books, and other items have been posted and are ready for purchase. "And we're adding more items almost every day," says Museum Store Manager **Jennifer Jansen**. "If there is something you want to order that's not on the website, just e-mail me at []ansen@locustgrove.org and we'll do our best to see that it is included."

Click on the "Shop" tab on www.locustgrove.org and you'll be redirected to the store.



For Locust Grove Members and Volunteers! A History Cruise on Louisville's New 'Mary M. Miller' Riverboat

Saturday, September 9 Board at 2:30 pm, Cruise from 3-4 pm

Join us for a "History Cruise" on Louisville's brand new Mary M. Miller riverboat. It's the sister boat to Louisville's "grand lady," the Belle of Louisville. Rechristened in June, the Mary M. Miller replaces the aging Spirit of Jefferson riverboat. This new resident of the Fourth Street Dock is a diesel-powered boat with a false paddlewheel and a charming facade.

This one-hour History Cruise will be narrated by Belle of Louisville Historian Kadie Engstrom. As you cruise up-river toward Six Mile Island — which was owned by William Croghan in the early 1800s — you'll hear about Louisville's historic ties to the Ohio River. Kadie will regale you with stories of Louisville's steamboat era. She'll point out historical sites of note — from the Louisville waterfront to the historic Louisville Water Tower, towns along the way, bridges we pass under, and the influence of the Ohio River on our city's history.

Cost is \$18 per person. Please join us! Sign up by Monday, **July 31** by calling Locust Grove — (502) 897-9845.

Dr. & Mrs. Thomas LaBaugh

Stephen C. Lannert

Audrey Pilkington Lifetime Achievement Award Winner: Jeannie Litterst Vezeau



The Audrey Pilkington Lifetime Achievement Award recognizes volunteers who have offered a lifetime of dedication and support to Locust Grove. Begun in 1998, it was named for Audrey Pilkington in 2000 in recognition of her pioneering work and positive energy in nurturing Locust Grove's volunteers.

The Audrey Pilkington Award has been granted 11 times over the past 19 years to volunteers who set an example of constant

attention and unfailing enthusiasm for all that Locust Grove does. The latest recipient is Jeannie Litterst Vezeau.

When Jeannie began her training as a docent at Locust Grove back in 2003, little did she know that soon she'd be averaging some 400 volunteer hours each year over the next 15 years.

"She gives tours of the house, helps with special events, sorts books and works at all the book sales, and bakes treats for our monthly lectures," said Curator of Collections and Education Mary Beth Williams. "Jeannie is always ready to pitch in - photographing our events and activities, counting the thousands of books for sale at our March and August used book sales, and so much more.

"We are especially fortunate that Jeannie shares her professional experience with us for our Grove Gazette," Mary Beth continues. "For 27 years, Jeannie worked in KFC's public relations department where, among other PR duties, she edited KFC's publication, Bucket.

"Since 2003, Jeannie has put that experience to use for Grove Gazette," adds Mary Beth. "She diligently works to write and edit our guarterly publication that is mailed to 1,600 households and distributed to visitors here and at events."

enthusiastic, knowledgeable, organized, good-humored, and fun to be around."

Because of her dedication, passion, commitment and general inclination to "go above and beyond," Jeannie has been named this year's Audrey Pilkington Lifetime Achievement Award winner. "And," Mary Beth told Jeannie, "just because you've won a 'lifetime' award doesn't mean you can stop volunteering here!"

"There's no chance of that," laughed Jeannie, as she accepted the award. "I hope to be here at Locust Grove for many more years. I'm overwhelmed by and so very grateful for this incredible honor."

Previous recipients of the Lifetime Achievement Award are Fred Atkinson, Alberta Baker, Shirley Dumesnil, LaMar Gaston, Nancy Lee, Dorothy Martin, Bob Pilkington, Gwynne Potts, Martin Schmidt, Emilie Strong Smith, and Preston Thomas.



Historic Locust Grove 56l Blankenbaker Lane Louisville, KY 40207 (502) 897-9845 Locust Grove is accredited by the American Alliance of Museums.



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Big August Used Book Sale

MEMBERS' PREVIEW SALE: THURSDAY, AUGUST 17, 5 PM - 7:30 PM

PUBLIC SALE: FRIDAY, AUGUST 18, 10 AM - 7 PM SATURDAY & SUNDAY, AUGUST 19 & 20, 10 AM - 4:30 PM



[SUMMER 2017]

Jane Austen Festival to Honor 200th Centennial of Jane Austen's Death in 1817



FRIDAY, JULY 14, 6 PM-9 PM

This is a time for "twilight shopping," with food for purchase and a special Friday-only presentation — "Napoleon and Lord Nelson" — by two Colonial Williamsburg interpreters.

SATURDAY & SUNDAY, JULY 15 & 16, 10 AM-5 PM

Some 1,800-plus Jane Austen fans are expected at the 9th annual Jane Austen Festival — "North America's largest Jane Austen event." Many men and women will be in Regency dress — transforming Locust Grove into what visitors might have seen in Lucy and William Croghan's day. With the theme of "Jane Austen's Legacy, 1775—1817," participants will attempt to create a Guinness World Record on Saturday for the Largest Regency Mourning Procession." Featured speaker **Dr. Cheryl Kinney** will discuss the eulogies that were written about Jane Austen when she died — and "The Eulogy Jane Austen Should Have Had."

Admission to the event includes activities of the Regency period — a style show, shopping, music, a "Duel Between Gentlemen," bare-knuckle boxing, archery, bobbin lace-making, and a Punch and Judy show. Other events require tickets — the wildly popular afternoon teas, a children's tea, workshops, and the "Grand Ball."



HISTORIC LOCUST GROVE There are several prices for admission available on <u>www.jasnalouisville.com</u>. Go to this website to purchase special advance tickets and for further information. www.locustgrove.org