

Fall 2019

NEW CHILDREN'S FILM DEBUTS

A flock of sheep in the valley, voices chatting in the hearth kitchen, children playing games on the lawn. Did we step back into 1809? Or are we just on a film set?

It's the latter. For three days this summer, Locust Grove was bustling with the energy and creativity that goes into making a movie.

The new children's film will be shown to students who visit Locust Grove for field trips. The film depicts a day in the life of eldest daughter Ann Croghan at Locust Grove. But not just any day.

Ann and her family are preparing for the arrival of her uncle, General George Rogers Clark, who came to live at Locust Grove in 1809 after his right leg was amputated below the knee. The film follows Ann as she searches for her brother William around Locust Grove — from the fields to the hearth kitchen, from the barn to the dairy.

Throughout the film, viewers will meet her parents, Lucy and William; her siblings William, Eliza, Charles, and Nicholas; and enslaved workers on the farm, including Humphrey, Ben, Sylvie, Hannah, and Kitt — George Rogers Clark's personal slave.

According to Locust Grove's Executive Director **Carol Ely**, the look of the film was inspired by the opening scenes of the 2005 film adaptation of *Pride and Prejudice*, which follows Elizabeth Bennet as she walks through her family home.

"The juxtaposition of the lives of the Croghan family and the young and older enslaved workers in the house and on

the farm is an interesting way to introduce our time period to students and to allow them to identify with children of their own age," Carol says.

"We hope that seeing life through Ann's eyes will help students start thinking about similarities and differences between life in the early 19th and in the early 21st centuries."



While much of the filming took place at Locust Grove, Blackacre State Nature Preserve and Historic Homestead stood in for the barn, and a Henry County farm provided the fields. The sheep, pigs, and chickens (including an adventurous rooster named Pancake who evaded capture for a time) were loaned by Ballyhoo Farm in Shelby County.

The film was written by **Ed Neary** and directed by **Rob Gardner** of **Mfilms**. Creative input was guided by former Curator of Collections and Education **Mary Beth Williams** and Education Coordinator **Diane Statler**. Locust Grove's Executive Director **Carol Ely**, Program Director **Brian Cushing**, and Marketing Director **Hannah Zimmerman** offered production guidance. Generous donations from **Betty Stokes, Nancy Lee, Susan Norris**, and **Rosalind Scott** helped make the film a reality.

The new film will begin school tours starting in the new year. It also will be available on Locust Grove's website for the public to enjoy.

Locust Grove is grateful to the cast, crew, donors, and volunteers who made this project a reality. We can't wait to show it to you — and to our students — for many years to come.

Grove Gazette is published quarterly by Historic Locust Grove, Inc. for members, volunteers and supporters of Historic Locust Grove. ©2019

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www.locustgrove.org

The mission of Historic Locust Grove is to preserve and interpret the remaining 55 acres of William Croghan's estate, Locust Grove, with its circa 1792 house, outbuildings, collection, and grounds as examples of early 19th-century frontier America, and to share the stories of the many people who contributed to the history of the site, emphasizing the experiences of George Rogers Clark, Revolutionary War hero and founder of Louisville.

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DIRECTOR'S LETTER Carol Ely, Ph.D.

I promised you a meadow. And someday Locust Grove will have a meadow of glorious wildflowers and proud grasses, waving in the Kentucky breezes.

But not this year.

We used several rounds of organic herbicides on the east slope. This was only partially effective, and the wet spring weather did not help either. Finally, we went ahead and seeded the meadow area with selected native flowers and grasses. Just in time, it turned out, for a legendary drought to begin. So what came up this year was only what was determined to survive the dry conditions — and it's not pretty.



But in better news, how cool was it that a group of children who live on Clarkwood Road, directly adjoining the blighted meadow, took it on themselves to make and sell original artworks to raise money to support Locust Grove's Capital Campaign? They donated online on *Give for Good Day* in September. Thanks, Children of Clarkwood Road! Someday we **will** have a flowering meadow for you!

Our Capital Campaign continues. As with the meadow, we've had some setbacks, but we also have some great friends. We are inching closer to our goal, and working with our architects and planners to craft our vision towards what is achievable. Our construction start date is still set for September of 2020.

If you would like to learn more, or contribute, or help us work on any of the many ventures we have underway, please come to Locust Grove, email me at ely@locustgrove.org, or give us a call (502) 897-9845.

We are grateful for and humbled by the care and love we see for this place every day — in our volunteers, our visitors, our neighbors, our donors, and our hardworking staff and Board.

If only there were some flowers!

LOCUST GROVE WILL BE CLOSED DURING JANUARY 2020



As we've done over the past few years, Locust Grove will be closed to visitors for the month of January in order to spruce up our site for the new year. The staff will be on site cleaning, planning, and making repairs — but we'll continue to answer the phone and email, take reservations, and answer questions. We'll reopen on February 1.

New Insights on Slavery at Locust Grove

Locust Grove volunteer researcher **Heather Hiner** has devoted more than 1,000 hours — to date — to give a voice to those who were enslaved by the Croghans. What began for Heather as a desire to create a list of enslaved people and their tasks for Locust Grove's first-person interpreters quickly became a quest to untangle conflicting items in various documents. "And it grew from there," she laughs.

"A lack of documentation about the Croghan slaves is a part of the story," Heather says. "It appears that, by and large, the enslaved people owned by the Croghans were not deemed worth talking about, outside of their economic value and the labor they provided."

Even with those complications, Heather has given Locust Grove far more than had been previously known. Here are some of her findings:

- ☼ There are currently about 70 people who can be identified by name or as individuals owned by the Croghans in Louisville and at Mammoth Cave. It's important that we know their names, which include two Alfreds, Blythe, Charlotte, Criss, three Hannahs, Isaac, Kitt, Nanny, Nick, Rose, Stephen, Little Bob, and Uncle Jim.

- ☼ One of the "Alfreds" (Alfred Croghan) is the first person we can trace as a child at Locust Grove to his death as a free man in Louisville.

- ☼ Some of Croghan's slaves were literate. (It was never illegal to educate an enslaved person in Kentucky.) Archeologists found a slate, styluses, and eyeglasses in the remains of the slave dwellings at Locust Grove. This helps to verify references to literate slaves in the Croghan family letters.

- ☼ Locust Grove was largely populated by enslaved families. It was common for the Croghans to loan, sell, or give enslaved people to family members. Croghan siblings purchased slaves from each other. At this point in time, there is little evidence that the Croghans separated families or sold enslaved children.

- ☼ While we have no records of runaways, we do have instances in letters or other documents where the Croghans were not kind to the enslaved people they owned.

- ☼ The Croghans largely took a paternalistic view of the people they owned. White owners cared for and managed the rights of those they enslaved as they would for a child.

Heather periodically shares her research on her blog, PastInFocus.com, and on www.facebook.com/PastInFocus.



SPRIT AWARD WINNER: Sue Rogers



The 18th Century Market Fair marked its 16th anniversary in October. This highly popular event owes much credit for its premiere in October 2004 to this quarter's winner — **Sue Rogers**.

"Former Program Manager **Shelley Adams** and I visited The Fair at New Boston

in northern Ohio in the fall of 2003 to see if a similar fair might work at Locust Grove," says Sue. "We loved it! We made contacts with vendors and entertainers who seemed interested in coming to Louisville the next year. That started the ball rolling."

But that ball would have stopped rolling were it not for Sue and her co-chair, **LaMar Gaston**. "A few months after returning from Ohio, Shelley said that she was moving to San Francisco!" says Sue. "But the then-named 'Market Days' was just too promising to be let go. So LaMar and I picked up the ball and made the fair a reality a year later."

Sue has been volunteering at Locust Grove since 1996 — even while working as a renal dietician in the Louisville area. "Locust Grove was a passion of mine," she says. "And my husband **Steve Stormes** even joined me as a docent."

In 2001, Sue introduced and helped organize an outdoor Music Fest at Locust Grove that featured different genres of music, including Bluegrass and Gospel. During what was then called "Candlelight Tours" in the early 2000s, Sue portrayed Serena Croghan, the wife of War of 1812 hero George Croghan and a strong woman with an independent streak.

"Before so much was available on the Internet, I had quite a challenge to make the gown that Serena wears in her portrait," says Sue. "I salute the current interpreters who now create clothing that is historically correct — and stunning."

She also is proud that she was able to get a blacksmith to make historically accurate lanterns and holders that still are used during evening events, including Christmastide.

Adds Executive Director **Carol Ely**, "We owe the very existence of the 18th Century Market Fair to Sue's organizational skills and her vision for an event that was, and remains, engaging for all."

FIRST WEDNESDAY LECTURE SERIES

Hear a variety of interesting speakers on 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. Doors open at 12:50 for desserts and beverages; lectures start at 1:15. Cost—\$6, or \$4 for members.

Holiday Dulcimer Concert

Wednesday, December 11, 2019 — 1:15 PM

*NOTE: Date has changed to **second Wednesday in December!***

Strum in the holidays with the Louisville Dulcimer Society as they bring us traditional carols and tunes for singing along — as well as new compositions that are quickly becoming favorites. Arrive early to get your seat and enjoy the seasonal treats prepared especially for you by Locust Grove’s Lecture Ladies and Bakers.



(No lecture in January)

Black and Barreled:

African American Contributions in Early Distilling

Wednesday, February 5, 2020 — 1:15 PM



Bourbon historian **Andrea Meriwether** talks about her groundbreaking research and insights into the involvement of enslaved and free blacks in the expansion of farm distilling into an industry in early Kentucky. She calls bourbon “a conduit” into understanding Kentucky’s economy, culture and race relations — exploring the lives of skilled black creators of a unique American product. Weather permitting, you can make a quick visit to Locust Grove’s Farm Distillery building following the lecture.

MUSEUM STORE SALE

Friday, November 29 — Sunday, December 8
Visitors’ Center Hours; Mon.— Sat., 10 AM—4:30 PM;
Sun., 1—4:30 PM

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. Starting December 1, you can pre-order Locust Grove historian **Gwynne Potts’** new book, ***George Rogers Clark and William Croghan: A Story of the Revolution, Settlement, and Early Life at Locust Grove***. Orders will be taken in person or online. Books will be available for pick-up in late January. (See story, pg. 5)



CHRISTMASTIDE BOOK SALE

Friday, December 6, 10 AM — 4:30 PM
Saturday, December 7, Noon — 7 PM

A selection of gift-quality books in all categories for sale in the Auditorium. Buy cookbooks, vintage children’s literature, decorating and design, or special interest history books for the people in your life, and know that your purchase benefits Locust Grove. A special collection of remainders has been selected by the former Hawley-Cooke remainders buyer. The book sale is free on Friday, December 6, and runs from 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. On Saturday, December 7, the book sale is included in the admission price for “Christmastide, 1816,” from noon to 7:00 p.m. (See item below)



CHRISTMASTIDE, 1816

Saturday, December 7, Noon — 7 PM

Join the Croghans and Clarks as they welcome their friends and family to Locust Grove for a holiday celebration. Go behind the scenes of an 1816 celebration with the help of Locust Grove’s First Person Interpreters. Chat with the ladies as they dress for the evening. Join in the music and singing. Venture out to the hearth kitchen to watch the preparation of the evening’s treats and chat with the cooks.



Shop at the Holiday Crafts Market in the Visitors’ Center to find 18th century-style goods useful for your family today. Buy some holiday-themed and other books at the Christmastide book sale for perfect holiday gift-giving. Enjoy the music and refreshments as children create special holiday crafts. Admission — Adults, \$6; Children and Teens 6-18, \$3; Children under 6, free.



For more glimpses into what awaits you at Christmastide, see the back cover.

**EMILIE STRONG SMITH
CHAMBER MUSIC SERIES**

The 36th season of the Emilie Strong Smith Chamber Music 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 begins at 5:30 p.m. Concerts are \$20 each.

La Luna La Mía

Sunday, December 15, 2019, 5:30 PM

La Luna La Mía is an early-music ensemble specializing in music and poetry from medieval communities in southern Europe and the Mediterranean. They also recite poetry in historical languages in an attempt to recreate the sounds and textures of ancient times.

Musicke's Cordes: 'The Violin in England'

Sunday, February 23, 2020, 5:30 PM

Musicke's Cordes, based in Providence, R.I., is a collaboration between Locust Grove favorites — Baroque violinist **Sam Breene** and lutenist **Jeff Noonon**. They will be playing music from 17th century England by Locke, Purcell, and others.

'The Woods so Wild'

Sunday, March 22, 2020, 5:30 PM

The Woods so Wild is a duo based in Minneapolis featuring Locust Grove favorite **Kenneth Kusiak** on the virginal and **Bill Bauer** on the Renaissance violin. They focus on music from Shakespeare's time, taking their name from a piece of virginal music from the Tudor era called "Will Yow Walke the Woods soe Wyld." The piece is popularly believed to have been a favorite of Henry VIII.



Locust Grove is excited to celebrate the release the new book, **George Rogers Clark and William Croghan: A Story of the Revolution, Settlement, and Early Life at Locust Grove**. It has been extensively researched and written by **Gwynne Tuell Potts**, former Board chair, executive director, and long-time supporter of Locust Grove.

In a festive **Book Launch Party on February 2, 2020**, Gwynne will discuss new insights about the intertwined lives of brothers-in-law George Rogers Clark and William

Croghan before and during their time at Locust Grove. The cost to attend is a donation in the amount of your choice to the **Gwynne Tuell Potts Research Fund at Locust Grove** -- the research that makes all that we do possible. Donations are payable at the event. (See invitation below.)

The following is from the University of Kentucky Press, the publisher of the book:

This dual biography by Gwynne Tuell Potts focuses on the lives of two very different men who fought for and settled the American West and whose vision secured the old Northwest Territory for the new nation.

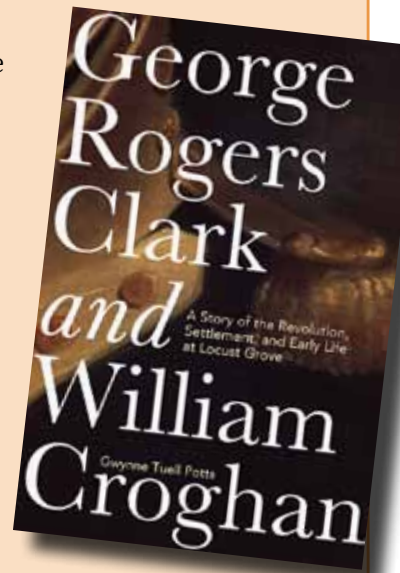
Famed military leader George Rogers Clark was from the Virginia planter class. William Croghan was an Irish immigrant with tight family ties to the British in America. Yet their lives would intersect in ways that would make independence and western settlement possible.

Croghan fought in the Revolutionary War at Trenton and spent the winter of 1777–1778 at Valley Forge with George Washington and Lafayette before being taken prisoner at Charleston. Clark was famous for his victorious Illinois campaign against the British and as an Indian fighter.

Following the war, Croghan became Clark's deputy surveyor of military lands for the Virginia State Line, enabling him to acquire some 54,000 acres on the edge of the American frontier. Croghan's marriage to Lucy Clark, George Roger Clark's sister, solidified his position in society.

Clark, however, was regularly called by Virginia and the federal government to secure peace in the Ohio River Valley, leading to his financial ruin and emotional decline. Croghan remained at Clark's side throughout it all, and Croghan prospered in the new world they had fought to create. These men nevertheless worked and eventually lived together, bound by the familial connections they shared and a political ideology honed by the Revolution.

"Potts vividly and thoroughly tells the story of both men and how their lives intersected in fighting a war for independence and in frontier Kentucky." -- James J. Holmberg, Curator of Collections, The Filson Historical Society



**You Are Cordially Invited to a
Book Launch Party**

February 2, 2020 at 2:00 p.m.

to Celebrate the Release of
Gwynne Tuell Potts' New Book:

**George Rogers Clark and
William Croghan:
A Story of the Revolution,
Settlement, and Early Life at
Locust Grove.**

Lavish Refreshments

Books Available for Purchase
and Signing

RSVP by January 25
to Hannah Zimmerman at
marketing@locustgrove.org or
(502) 897-9845.

*Brian Cushing,
Program Director*

Slave Dwelling Project Powerful, Meaningful



Joe McGill leads a discussion

Below: Fingermarks thought to be left by enslaved brick-makers.



Jerry Bransford attends the campfire

On August 23 and 24, **Joe McGill**, creator of the Slave Dwelling Project, brought to Locust Grove his passion for changing the narrative of slavery and addressing its legacy in American history and culture.

The event was in three parts — a campfire discussion on Friday evening; an opportunity to sleep that night on the grounds and in two outbuildings; and a Saturday afternoon lecture about the Slave Dwelling Project.

The campfire started with dinner prepared by Locust Grove volunteers **Judy Chang** and **Sharron Hilbrecht**. They used recipes that **Michael Twitty** shared during his visit last year to highlight the impact of African culinary traditions on what has become “American” food.

The conversation actually started an hour earlier than was scheduled. Joe began the discussion by asking each of the 35 campfire participants to describe what they hoped to get from the discussion.

Throughout the evening, participants heard how Locust Grove has been working to discover more about its enslaved people. Participants told of their personal and family searches for their ancestors and the surprises they’d uncovered. We heard that some of us were descended from slaves and others from slave owners.

We were delighted that **Jerry Bransford** — a direct descendant of one of the Croghan-owned slave guides of Mammoth Cave and a long-time Mammoth Cave guide himself — traveled from southern Kentucky to attend the campfire.

The conversation was so engrossing that Joe was surprised to see that we had gone on for an hour longer than he’d ever experienced in previous campfires.

About a dozen people stayed overnight — some in buildings reconstructed on sites where slaves had lived and worked . . . and others in tents on the grounds.

On Saturday, it was standing-room-only in the Audubon Room for Joe’s talk. Judy and Sharron had made so much food for Friday night that the lecture-goers also got to sample the offerings. Joe talked about where the Slave Dwelling Project has been, where it’s going, and his experiences in properties where slaves had lived.

One of the most powerful moments of the visit came when Joe and Locust Grove Executive Director **Carol Ely** found several bricks on the front of the house with imprints of fingers, most likely from an enslaved worker who made the bricks.

The enthusiasm for this event was overwhelming; the results were powerful and meaningful. It was clear that the passion for making sure that telling about the lives of those who were enslaved at Locust Grove is just as important as talking about the others who lived here.



Many thanks to the hundreds of people who support Historic Locust Grove through memberships and various kinds of donations. We depend upon and deeply appreciate your generosity and involvement.

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For people donating \$250 and up to Historic Locust Grove from July 1 through October 16, 2019

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IN MEMORIAM



George Duthie
 Betty Jones
 David Jones

We note with sadness the recent death of these members of our Locust Grove family. We treasure their generous contributions to Locust Grove of time, energy, support, and enthusiasm.



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



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EMILIE STRONG SMITH
CHAMBER MUSIC CONCERTS

Sundays at 5:30 PM — December 15, 2019;
February 23 and March 22, 2020



Fall 2019

CHRISTMASTIDE, 1816 Saturday, December 7, Noon – 7 PM (Details in "Calendar" on Page 4)



HISTORIC LOCUST GROVE
GROVE GAZETTE

www.locustgrove.org