



HISTORIC LOCUST GROVE

GROVE GAZETTE

Summer 2019



SLAVE DWELLING PROJECT: SLEEP WHERE THEY SLEPT, STAND WHERE THEY STOOD

Over the years, many visitors have remarked that they would love to spend the night at Locust Grove. Come August 23, guests will have that opportunity, but not in the way you might expect.

On August 23 and 24, **Joe McGill** of the **Slave Dwelling Project**, will be in residence at Locust Grove for a campfire discussion and an overnight. The next afternoon, McGill will give a talk about his work on changing the narrative of slavery and address its legacy in American history and culture.

McGill is an educator, Civil War re-enactor, and descendant of enslaved people. The Slave Dwelling Project began in 2010 at Magnolia Plantation in South Carolina and now has spread to 23 states on 150 historic sites. McGill has been interviewed for *The New York Times*, *Smithsonian* magazine, *Curbed*, and *HistoryNet*.

According to Program Director **Brian Cushing**, McGill's visit to Locust Grove started with former Locust Grove Program Director **Aileen Novick**, now the site administrator at Hempstead Houses in New London, Conn., which hosted McGill last year. "Aileen thought the program would fit well at Locust Grove and got us in touch," explains Brian.

On Friday, August 23 at 6:30 p.m., guests will gather for an outdoor meal and campfire for a discussion guided by McGill. The discussion will cover the lives of enslaved people across the United States, including those at Locust Grove — and consider what can be learned from sleeping where they slept and standing where they stood. While Locust Grove does not have an extant slave cabin, McGill will consider the significance of interpreting slavery on former slave sites.

At around 10:30 p.m. on Friday, guests who wish to stay overnight at Locust Grove will have the opportunity to do so, either under the stars or in modern tents. A limited number of indoor sleeping spaces will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. Guests must supply their own tents and sleeping bags.

On Saturday, August 24 at 1:30 p.m., McGill will describe his experiences with the Slave Dwelling project and the insights he has gained through his years of sleeping in slave residences.

He also will discuss the economy of slavery in agricultural and non- agricultural settings. Farms and plantations like Locust Grove are a familiar setting for stories of slave life. William Croghan, like other slave owners, was first and foremost a businessman.

"The Slave Dwelling project is a way for Locust Grove to further explore how to discuss the history of slavery at Locust Grove and in the region," adds Brian. "We want to help everyone in our city and surrounding communities to talk openly about this history."

Tickets: August 23 Campfire: \$25 for campfire discussion + \$10 for overnight if bringing a tent
August 24 Presentation: \$12 for members and students/\$15 for non-members

Space is limited. Advanced reservations and payment are required. Please call Locust Grove at (502) 897-9845 to make reservations. Learn more about the Slave Dwelling Project on its website: <https://slavedwellingproject.org>.

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561 Blankenbaker Lane (502) 897-9845
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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.

It has been rewarding, if a bit obsessive, to focus on the "Age of Hamilton" over the past year.



Peyton Dixon as John Adams — presenting by lantern - light when Locust Grove lost power just before the event.

Through all of our events, we've wrapped the world of Hamilton and his associates into the world of the Croghans and Clarks.

- We've asked interesting questions. (*What was Burr up to in his 1805 Louisville visit?*)
- We've triumphed through potential disasters. (*We know that we **can** offer a much-applauded evening program with the power out!*)
- We've hosted VIPs and we've introduced a new audience of history lovers to Locust Grove.
- We've danced, we've debated, we've awarded tickets, and we've taught middle school students how to rap history. (*Or maybe they taught us.*) See young Fiona's

performance of her original rap inspired by Hamilton's *The Reynolds Pamphlet*, at <http://bit.ly/hamilfan>.

And I must thank our tremendous staff and amazing volunteers for an extraordinary amount of work to successfully produce an entire series of public events and educational programs — in addition to our regular round of lectures, tours, and weekend events! It was a schedule that could be considered insane — and, in fact, **was!** They are champions at what they do. Please tell them so when you see them around Locust Grove.

More updates: We're excited to host *The Slave Dwelling Project* in late August — which we've featured on the front cover. Through this program, we honor the memory of those who were enslaved here by sharing their spaces and imagining their lives.

We've moved forward with the meadow project, after setbacks. The first application this spring of weed killer didn't work. But, as you may have noticed, the second one has — turning the meadow yellow. But we promise that one day, there *will* be a field of flowers there.

I'm delighted to report that some generous donations have moved us closer to our capital campaign goal. (Please give!) We've received preliminary planning approval from the city's Historic Landmarks Commission — which means it's full speed ahead on final details of our building projects. If all goes according to plan, we'll begin construction in the early fall of 2020. We'll keep you informed about all upcoming changes to the site and the schedule. And thanks for your support!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carol Ely". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBER, Monica Wolf

Historic Locust Grove welcomes its newest Board member **Monica Wolf**, founder and managing partner of The Spirits Group. She specializes in strategy and operations for emerging and established distilleries. Most recently, she is co-founder and CEO of a distillery in Northern Kentucky focusing on 18th century history and distilling.

In the third-floor girls' bedroom sits a writing chair. A gift to the museum in 1966, this Windsor-style chair has an attached writing arm. With a drawer and a recessed area to hold an inkwell, this desk would have provided the perfect place for a young lady to do school work or write correspondence.

We are fortunate that many Croghan family letters have survived. The Library of Congress collection houses many of these family letters, including letters from both Croghan daughters. These letters share insights into their daily lives, and a few letters discuss their brief stint in boarding school.

One of these letters was written December 25, 1810, from 10-year-old Eliza to her older brother William Jr. after she and older sister, 13-year-old Ann, had returned home from boarding school in Washington County:

I am trying to learn what I can under the tuition of Papa Mama and cousin Emilia I often think of the girls at the academy & Mama Keats, but we should have had to part some tim or other. I think by this time I have tired you and if you will only excuse my bad writing bad spelling & bad diction I will forever be your affectionate sister.
Eliza C. Croghan

Eliza and Ann's formal education at Louisa Keats' Ladies Domestic Academy near Springfield, Ky., lasted only a few months however. According to Eliza's same letter:

I suppose you will be suprised to hear we are at home we went as far as Uncle Andersons but when we came to part some body began to cry can you think it was me Mama got uneasy and said she could not part with us so here we are at home.

Prior to the girls' switch to tutoring at home, they would have received a varied course of study at boarding school. The Ladies Domestic Academy offered instruction in reading, grammar, arithmetic, composition, geography, topography, and astronomy. Additionally, masters were brought in to educate the young ladies in dancing, drawing, and music. A temporary room exhibit in 2014, curated by Locust Grove intern **Anna Mallory**, highlighted this story of the girls' education.



As we prepare for Back-to-School season here at Locust Grove, we are reminded of how education has changed over the years. Gone are the slates and inkwells — but the importance of education for young women remains undiminished.



SPRIT AWARD WINNER: Judy Chang

Cookies! Candies! Muffins! Oh, my! That's the reaction of visitors whenever Judy Chang creates her treats for Locust Grove's lectures and special events. In just three years, Judy has contributed so much of her talent, time, and enthusiasm to Locust Grove that she has been selected as this quarter's Spirit Award Winner.



Judy lived in Lima, Peru, for four years while her husband, Carlos, was in the Peruvian Air Force. They then moved to upstate New York, where Judy taught Spanish and they raised their three children. At her school in Albany, Judy became famous for the fundraising bake sales she launched. She still gets requests from teacher-friends in Albany to send goodies for their ongoing fundraisers.

She and Carlos moved to Louisville in 2008 so she could be the "babysitting Grandma" for their (now) three

granddaughters. When the youngest started school, Judy joined the Locust Grove family.

"Judy hit the road running," says **Mary Beth Williams**, curator of collections and education. "She is a regular on Fridays, fills in with additional shifts, and leads numerous school field trips. She even creates a large array of delicious treats for a special bake sale during the Gardeners' Fair — donating the proceeds to Locust Grove."

Judy loves learning about the Kentucky frontier and the lives of the Croghans and Clarks — and delights in giving tours. "As a former teacher, I hope everyone who visits Locust Grove learns something new."

Judy also helps with Locust Grove's Used Book Sales and is "a work in progress to learn open-hearth cooking," she laughs. She's also working on a Spanish translation of Locust Grove's grounds tour.

"At Locust Grove, the amazing mutual support and team effort here make our events happen," Judy adds. "Locust Grove is the perfect niche for those who would like to help preserve and spotlight this beautiful jewel of Kentucky history."

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. Desserts and beverages served at 1 p.m.; lectures begin at 1:15 p.m. Cost—\$6, or \$4 for members.



Margaretta's Guest
Lafayette's Visit to Liberty Hall
Wednesday, September 4, 1:15 PM



Margaretta Brown

Lafayette, the last surviving Major General of the Revolutionary War, embarked on a great tour of the United States in 1824-1825 as the "Nation's Guest." Why did he visit Liberty Hall, John Brown's home in Frankfort, Ky., in May 1825? Why did Margaretta Brown feel triumphant after his visit? Did Brown serve as an aide to Lafayette? Liberty Hall

Curator **Kate Hesseldenz** will answer these questions about Lafayette's connections to the Browns and Liberty Hall. *Part of The Age of Hamilton series at Locust Grove.*



Kentucky Duels
Wednesday, October 2, 1:15 PM

You're aware of Alexander Hamilton's duel with Aaron Burr; but did you know that there were some remarkable affairs of honor in Kentucky?



Join author and public historian **Stuart W. Sanders** to discuss some of the Commonwealth's most remarkable duels and their impact on the Bluegrass State. It's a lecture at ten paces! *Part of The Age of Hamilton series at Locust Grove.*

Afloat: An Ohio River Way of Life
Traversing Indian Diplomacy On the Ohio River
Wednesday, November 6, 1:15 PM

In 1842, the Choctaw diplomat Peter Pitchlynn met Charles Dickens on an Ohio River steamboat between Cincinnati and Louisville. Pitchlynn was returning from Washington; Dickens was traveling the country to



write his **American Notes** (1842). University of Louisville professor and author **Frank Kelderman** uses Dickens' account of their meeting to illustrate how the Ohio River was a thoroughfare for Indian diplomacy. Using literature, visual art, and archival materials, he discusses indigenous presence in a region where that presence has long been unrecognized.



AUGUST USED BOOK SALE

Members-Only Preview:

Thursday, August 15, 5 PM—7:30 PM

Open to the Public:

Friday, August 16, 10 AM—7 PM

Saturday & Sunday, August 17 & 18, 10 AM—4:30 PM

There will be more than 28,000 books at Locust Grove's big August Used Book Sale. All books are organized into more than 30 categories, including children's, history, art, fiction, mystery, inspiration, cooking, gardening, and so much more. Most books are \$1 for paperbacks, \$2 for hardbacks. Special books and beautiful remainders are priced individually — and all at bargain prices.

Nearly all of these books have been donated by readers across the region, with tax donation forms available for donors. All proceeds from our book sales support Locust Grove's continued educational and preservation projects. In an effort to be as eco-friendly as possible, we encourage you to bring along some of those shopping bags in your car for carrying out all your literary treasures. Thank you! *Many thanks to our Used Book Sales sponsors.*

FALL ON THE FARM

Saturday, September 7, 10 AM—4:30 PM

Enjoy a day filled with the hustle and bustle of harvesting, cooking, distilling and other activities that would welcome in the fall season on a 19th century farm. Learn about the seasonal life on a farm through historic demonstrations in the hearth kitchen, farm distillery, and outbuildings. Admission at regular prices: \$9, adults; \$8, seniors; \$4 for children 6-12.



TWO BOOKBINDING WORKSHOPS

Locust Grove Artist-in-Residence **Brandon Vigliarolo** of Strano Books is offering two workshops this fall to learn the basics of making a book. Space for both is limited; reservations are required. Please call (502) 897-9845 to register.

Beginner's Bookbinding for Kids (Ages 7-12)

Saturday, September 14, 10 AM—11:30 AM

In this fun workshop, kids will bind a simple book using a needle and thread — and then take it home! \$30/\$25 for members. All materials included. A parent or guardian must stay on site during the workshop — and are welcome to assist their children, if they'd like. *Register by September 6.*

Basic Bookbinding for Adults

Saturday, September 21, 10 AM—12:00 PM

Learn about the art and craft of bookbinding — its history and process. Adults will make their own blank book with a marbled cover. All materials included. Participants will be able to take their tools home. \$40/\$35 for members. *Register by September 14.*



BOOKS, PRINTS, PAPER, AND ART SALE

Saturday, September 28, 10 AM–4:30 PM (Free Admission)

Sunday, September 29, 10 AM–4:30 PM (With \$8 admission to Antiques Market)

Dealers in used, new, and collectible books, as well as maps, prints, paper, and art offer wares at all prices and in all categories. You'll find books about collecting, art, decorative arts, and architecture and design, as well as artwork and prints.

FALL ANTIQUES MARKET

Sunday, September 29, 10 AM–4:30 PM

The Fall Antiques Market has something for everyone and every budget. Dozens of professional dealers from around the region offer fine and country furniture, books, textiles, jewelry, and more.



Admission includes tours of the historic house museum; food and drink will be available for purchase. Proceeds support the continued operation and preservation of Locust Grove. *Thanks to our Antiques Market sponsors.*

Admission: \$8 adults; free for ages 12 and under.

FRANKENSTEIN: A READING PERFORMANCE

Tuesday, October 22
Doors open at 6 PM;
Performance at 7 PM



Just in time for Hallowe'en, **Kentucky Shakespeare** returns to the Great Parlor in our historic home — bringing **Frankenstein** to life in a reading performance adapted and written by R.N. Sandberg, an American playwright. Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley wrote and published **Frankenstein** during the same years the Croghans lived at Locust Grove — making this a perfect melding of worlds to mark the season. Light refreshments will be provided.

Tickets are \$20, or \$15 for Locust Grove members.

Prepaid reservations are required. Call (502) 897-9845 to reserve.

EMILIE STRONG SMITH CHAMBER MUSIC CONCERTS

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 p.m.; the concert begins at 5:30 p.m. Season subscriptions are available by calling Locust Grove at (502) 897-9845. Categories — Patron, \$200; Supporter, \$100; and Subscriber, \$70. Individual concerts are \$20 each. We hope you'll join us.



Armonia e Passione: 'Concerto alla Rustica'
Sunday, November 17, 2019, 5:30 PM

Armonia e Passione is a 17th century Italian string band based in St. Louis. This "feast of Italian music" will feature works from Vivaldi, Marini, and Bertali — performed by **Celina Casado**, **Stephanie Hunt**, **Jeff Noonan**, and led by Chamber Music Concert Series Director **Bill Bauer**.

Forgotten Clefs: A Renaissance Wind Band
Sunday, December 15, 2019, 5:30 PM

Forgotten Clefs is a Renaissance wind band based in Durham, N.C. Performers playing shawm, dulcian, recorder, and bagpipe will enchant with Yuletide music from the era.

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 Wylde." The piece is popularly believed to have been a favorite of Henry VIII.



Brandon Vigliarolo,
Bookbinder

Locust Grove has begun an Artist-in-Residence program to bring both period-style and contemporary visual and performing artists to the site. These artists will do demonstrations and projects as they work with the public over a period of months in the summer and fall.

Our first artist, **Brandon Vigliarolo**, has been creating handmade books at Locust Grove since May. His beautiful books exemplify historic bookbinding, with hand-crafted leather and unique marbled-paper covers. What's more — Brandon has taught himself this fast-disappearing skill and built his own equipment to use.

"I've always been interested in 'doing' history — often called experiential archeology," Brandon says. "So I decided to learn all I could about the historic trade of bookbinding." By hand, he trims and binds the pages, tools the leather, and uses authentic glues to attach the marbled paper and leather to the covers. The result — heirloom-worthy reproductions with historic accuracy.

Brandon and his wife **Hannah Stoppel**, who creates historic wigs, have been active in Locust Grove's historic interpreter group since moving to Louisville from Michigan in 2015. Brandon now interprets Dr. John Croghan, the eldest son of Lucy and William Croghan; Hannah portrays Elizabeth Taylor, Zachary's sister.

"I'm a Michigan native, so our history is 'newer' than what I'm encountering in Kentucky," Brandon adds. "I'm excited to continue learning more about the rich history of this area."

Brandon will be giving two bookbinding workshops in September — one for children and one for adults. See page 4 for details.

2019 AUDREY PILKINGTON LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD — George Plager

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 13 times over the past 20 years to volunteers who set an example of constant attention and unflinching enthusiasm for all that Locust Grove does. The 14th recipient is **George Plager**.

Curator of Collections & Education **Mary Beth Williams** presented the award at the Volunteer Appreciation party in April, describing George's many contributions to Locust Grove over the last 18 years:

"After a long career with U.S. Naval Aviation, TWA, Florida Express, and UPS, George was looking for volunteer opportunities. A history major in college, George caught the Locust Grove bug after visiting with his wife, **Marti**," Mary Beth said.

"Over the years, George has helped with walk-in visitors every Wednesday afternoon and with school groups. He demonstrates woodworking for students, has served on the Board of Directors, and hosts the four Chamber Music Concerts each year alongside Marti.

"An Iowa native, George grew up on a farm and has tended a vegetable garden for years. Perhaps it's because of that green thumb that George found himself somehow caught up in the Gardeners' Fair about eight years ago. George developed a vendor layout plan that we still use. He oversees vendor check-in and manages the vendors throughout the three-day event."

"I was surprised and deeply humbled when Mary Beth told me I'd been chosen for this award," said George.

"George is the epitome of an excellent Locust Grove volunteer, and he exemplifies all of the qualities the Audrey Pilkington Lifetime Achievement Award celebrates," concluded Mary Beth.

"Locust Grove is so important to me. During my illness in 2017, everyone was so kind and supportive. And returning to Locust Grove was a big goal during my recovery. I enjoy all the things I do at Locust Grove — most especially giving tours to guests. Thank you all so very much for this honor."

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



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.

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For people donating \$250 and up to Historic Locust Grove from April 1 through June 30, 2019

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☪
Tom Diener
Kathryn Whitworth

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.

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 In honor of The Society of the Cincinnati

WANTED: DOCENTS TO HELP 'TELL OUR STORY'

Locust Grove is seeking friendly volunteers with a passion for history to tell our story to guests. Docents give guided tours of the house and outbuildings or are stationed in the house during special events. Trainees "shadowing" times and docent commitments can be arranged to fit any schedule. Here's a brief overview of the Fall training schedule.

- Thursday, August 29, 6:30 PM — Informational meeting and interviews
- Tuesday, September 3, 6:30 PM — Make-up session for interviews
- Saturday, September 7, 10 AM-4:20 PM — Option to observe during Fall at the Farm
- Tuesdays, September 10, 17, 24, 6:30 PM — Training classes
- Sunday, September 29, 10 AM-4:30 PM — Option to observe during Fall Antiques Market
- Tuesday, October 8, 6:30 PM — Debriefing; Q & A; scheduling final test tour
- Between October 9 and 23 — Take final "test tour"

Throughout the training period, trainees are encouraged to schedule some times to shadow docents as they guide tours or work special events.

We hope you'll join us! For further information, please contact Program Director **Brian Cushing**, bcushing@locustgrove.org or (502) 897-9845.



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SEPTEMBER ANTIQUES MARKET

Sunday, September 29 — 10 AM — 4:30 PM



Summer 2019



18TH CENTURY MARKET FAIR

Saturday-Sunday, October 26-27; 10 AM-4:30 PM

The smoke from campfires filters slowly through the trees around Locust Grove the last weekend of October each year. It's a time when people from the past walk the grounds. Continental soldiers in George Rogers Clark's Illinois Regiment of Virginia. Scarlet-coated British infantry. Brass-hatted and stripey-trousered Braunsweigers. They hold mock battles — full of sound and fury but quite safe. As the battles ensue, an expert in 18th-century warfare narrates the action. The wives and children are ever-attentive, even on the battlefield. Those women also work in the hearth kitchen and love to talk about their lives and the foods they're preparing.

Surrounding the historic house museum are the tents of sutlers (shopkeepers) selling 18th-century style goods still useful in today's world. Talented craftspeople describe their crafts as they loom linens, bind books, and create treasures to sell. Open-fire roasted meats, clay-oven baked breads and cookies, and an array of modern foods at Locust Grove's provisions table will satisfy. And Locust Grove's new spirits counter can slake any thirst.

Admission: \$8, adults; \$4 for children 6-12; free for children under 6. Includes a tour of the historic house museum.



HISTORIC LOCUST GROVE
GROVE GAZETTE