

'History Has Its Eyes on You'

Yes, we're quoting *Hamilton*, the insanely popular hip-hop musical about America's founding — which is on its way to three weeks of performances at Louisville's Kentucky Center for the Arts this June. And we have tickets, too!

Hamilton's creator Lin-Manuel Miranda crafted an American masterpiece mixing the lives and strivings of America's founders with hip-hop and Broadway tunes and a multicultural cast. From its Broadway base, the musical is now running in several cities including Chicago, San Juan, and London.

The story and themes of the musical intersect with our interpretation here at Locust Grove — the home of William Croghan who was an immigrant like Hamilton and fought in the Continental Army alongside Hamilton, Burr, and Washington. In fact, Burr himself, *Hamilton*'s sympathetic villain, visited Locust Grove in 1805, just after the famous duel.

During the first half of 2019, Locust Grove will highlight characters and events that are significant to both *Hamilton*'s world and the world of the Clarks and Croghans in our program series, **The Age of Hamilton**.

We'll raise a glass with George Washington and be visited



by John Adams. He'll have some explaining to do about his administration's attempt to arrest General Clark.

We'll explore the collegial relationship between Thomas Jefferson and George Rogers Clark. And we'll learn more about the Bill of Rights crafted by James Madison. (Did you know that Madison once owned the tract of land that Locust Grove's Visitors' Center now occupies?)

We will remember the ladies too, and the enslaved. And we'll get their perspectives on the Revolution and the new nation.

On April 27-28, the Revolutionary War encampment will return to Locust Grove with an expanded look at military life during that era.

And here's the best part. We're partnering with local teachers and schools — with the support of the **Louisville Theatrical Association / PNC Broadway in Louisville** — to work with young performers to create new works inspired by history to be performed here at Locust Grove.

We'll give the students raw materials about early Kentucky history and see what they come up with in their own songs, raps, dances, playlets, or poems.

All that will be part of our Hamilton Festival, Sunday, June 16.

Join Us in the Room Where it Happens

Through the generosity of the Louisville Theatrical Association, we will have tickets for June performances of *Hamilton*.

The bulk of the tickets will be awarded to our teacher/partners and student performers. But some will be available through prize drawings at our events and at our annual silent auction during the Gardeners' Fair in May.

Don't throw away your shot to join us. Please make sure you are on our email list and follow us on social media and at www.locustgrove.org/revolution for breaking details.

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.

'Look at where we are. Look at where we started.'

That line from the wildly popular musical, *Hamilton*, says it all. Locust Grove has been a historic site open to the public for more than 50 years. Starting with the restored Croghan house and one remaining dependency — the smokehouse — the site now includes 13 reconstructed, relocated, and modern buildings.

Beginning with a focus on offering house tours for local students and historically minded tourists, we now see people from around the world. But we're especially gratified to welcome repeat visitors from the region for our festivals, lectures, gallery, and more — all to learn, enjoy, and experience history.

That's the impetus behind the current **Capital Campaign**. Our new and loyal audiences and new programs need different facilities — a classroom, accessible pathways through the grounds, interpreted outbuildings, a library, and especially an outdoor event pavilion.



Miniatures Are Big Treasures — From Locust Grove's Curator, Mary Beth Williams



In the museum house are original portraits of Lucy, William, and George Croghan and Ann Croghan Jesup, along with George Rogers Clark. Fortunately, these are not the only likenesses we have in our museum collection.

Thanks to the popularity of miniatures in early America (and the generosity of Croghan family descendants), we also have several miniatures of Croghan family members.

Originating in Europe, miniatures became popular in the United States until the advent of photography in the mid-19th century. Miniatures were often mementos given to loved ones and

were designed to be worn or carried. Often painted on ivory in an oval shape, miniatures are typically small enough to be held in the palm of your hand.

We're especially pleased to have the miniatures of Dr. John Croghan and Mary Croghan Schenley in our collection, since we do not have portraits of them. Dr. John Croghan's miniature was painted by Italian painter Gennarino Persico and was exhibited in Philadelphia in 1827.

Mary Croghan Schenley was Lucy and William's granddaughter who notoriously eloped in 1842 at age 15 with British Captain Edward Schenley, a twice-widowed man 30 years her senior. Scandalous though it was, by all accounts it was a happy marriage. This and several other family pieces were donated by Mary and Edward's granddaughter to Locust Grove in the 1960s.



After a year of fundraising, we are more than **70 percent** of the way to our \$3.2 million goal. That's extraordinary. We've already raised twice as much as we've ever raised before in capital funds to preserve and educate at this landmark site. *Look at where we are. Look at where we started.*

Our Board gave generously. Several longtime donors came through with wonderful gifts. Local foundations — Gheens, J. Graham Brown, Snowy Owl, Hardscuffle — are in. Our partners at the Louisville chapter of the Jane Austen Society of North America are helping with funds for an improved kitchen. A *Give for Good* online campaign brought in six times more than we'd ever raised online before. We've reached out widely — but not as widely as we are about to.

We have another \$800,000 to go. It's the hardest to raise.

In the next few months, we will reach out to **you**. We hope you will agree that Locust Grove can continue to serve this community better, reach out further, and do more — with **your** help. And if you are among our many friends who have already donated, thank you!

How lucky we are to be alive right now, continues the *Hamilton* lyric. It's true. Great possibilities lie ahead.

**SPIRIT AWARD WINNER:
Joy Gleason Carew**



Dr. Joy Gleason Carew is a professor, a storyteller, a writer, a historian, and a dedicated volunteer at Locust Grove. Her involvement runs the gamut from “working the gate” during special events to her current service as a vice-president on Locust Grove’s Board of Directors.

These are but a few of the reasons that the Volunteer Steering Committee has made Joy this issue’s Spirit Award Winner.

“Joy has been a part of Locust Grove for many years, serving as a link between the University of Louisville and Locust Grove,” says Carol Ely, Locust Grove’s executive director. “She provides her own perspective and supports our programs with grace and good sense. It’s such a pleasure to work with her.”

Joy’s enthusiasm for research and discovery, especially of the enslaved population at Locust Grove, has added richness and dimension to the site’s interpretation.

“I enjoy helping Locust Grove’s first-person interpreter corps develop new characters and expand the stories we tell,” says



Joy. She will be discussing these opportunities and challenges at a “Tea and Talk” at Locust Grove on March 26. (See *Calendar*, page 5.)

Joy is a professor of Pan-African Studies at the University of Louisville. She, her late husband, and daughter came to Louisville in 2000. “My colleague and friend **Dr. J. Blaine Hudson**

introduced Locust Grove to me and thought I’d be a good match,” she says.

Indeed she is. “When we have an enslaved-person interpreter, Joy provides historical context to the difficult and intricate situation of the enslaved,” says **Mary Beth Williams**, curator of collections and education.

“There are so many fascinating people at Locust Grove,” adds Joy. “I’m delighted to be a part of this vital and exciting historical site.”

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. Lectures begin at 1:15 p.m., with desserts and beverages served beforehand. Cost — \$6, or \$4 for members.

Kentucky Treasures from the Speed Art Museum

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6, 1:00 PM



Scott Erbes, curator of Decorative Arts and Design at Louisville's Speed Art Museum, will provide a behind-the-scenes look at highlights from the museum's outstanding Kentucky collection — everything from furniture to textiles. Along the way,

he will also look at some of the tricks of the trade used when examining Kentucky antiques.



Washington's Tomb, Mount Vernon, and the Memory of the First President

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3, 1:00 PM



Dr. Matthew Costello, senior historian for the White House Historical Association, will speak on how George Washington is remembered, his tomb at Mount Vernon, and the enslaved storytellers who were the first on-site interpreters of Washington's legacy.

EMILIE STRONG SMITH CHAMBER MUSIC SERIES

The 35th 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. \$20.

Swansong

SUNDAY, MARCH 24, 5:30 PM

This will be a farewell to the sounds of Locust Grove's beloved 1806 John Broadwood and Sons fortepiano. Mezzo-soprano **Rebekah Bortz Hardin** joins us for a traditional all-Schubert afternoon as we retire our lovely but fragile fortepiano from regular performance. The concert features sonatas, lieder, choral reading — and perhaps a parlor game or two.



SPRING USED-BOOK SALE

*Members-Only**

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 5:00 PM – 7:30 PM

*To become a member, visit www.locustgrove.org/participate/become-a-member.

Open to the Public:

FRIDAY, MARCH 1, 10 AM – 7 PM

SATURDAY & SUNDAY, MARCH 2 & 3, 10:00 AM – 4:30 PM

HISTORIC LOCUST GROVE

PUNCH WITH THE PRESIDENT:

John Adams Speaks

Friday, March 15, 6:30 PM



Did you know that John Adams tried to have George Rogers Clark arrested on charges of treason? The second president will, at last, make his journey to Locust Grove, even though he never did meet William Croghan. Join us for light refreshments and hear John Adams' story as interpreted by nationally known interpreter **Peyton Dixon**. Tickets: \$15/\$12 for Locust Grove members. Reservations required; call (502) 897-9845. Admission includes one drink ticket; cash bar available.

REVOLUTIONARY WAR ENCAMPMENT **Saturday**

Locust Grove's William Croghan fought with George Washington's Continental Army in the east, while further west George Rogers Clark and the Illinois Regiment campaigned. Step into the year 1779 with this Revolutionary War Encampment as George Rogers Clark and his Illinois Regiment of Virginia begin their western campaign.



Some 22,000-plus books are waiting for you — all sorted into more than 30 categories and displayed for easy shopping. They're all gently used and donated by readers from all over the region. Most books are \$1 and \$2, with special ones \$3 and up — all great bargains! (See back cover for further details.)



CALENDAR Winter 2019



PUNCH WITH THE PRESIDENT:
George Washington, the Founding Fathers, and their Spirits
Wednesday, April 3, 6:30 PM

At his death in 1799, George Washington owned one of the largest whiskey distilleries in the United States. John Adams preferred hard cider and a variety of beers. Thomas Jefferson was a connoisseur of French wines and champagne. Join the White House Historical Association's Senior Historian **Dr. Matthew Costello** to learn to drink like Washington and his contemporaries in this lively evening of history and historical refreshments. \$15/\$12 for Locust Grove members. One drink ticket included; cash bar available. Reservations required; call (502) 897-9845.



Artwork: British School, 18th Century

& Sunday, April 27 & 28, 10:00 AM — 4:30 PM

Visit with soldiers and camp followers, learn 18th-century recipes in the hearth kitchen, and participate in recruitment for new, pint-sized troops. Be sure to visit the blacksmith and woodworker to discover more about daily life during the Revolution.

Admission: \$6 for adults; free for children 12 and under; includes historic house tours. Snacks will be available for sale.



TEA AND TALK

Exploring Black History at Locust Grove

Tuesday, March 26, 6:00 PM — 8:30 PM

No one can or should imagine the construction, maintenance, and growth of properties like Locust Grove without considering the oft-silenced voices of the African and African-descendant people who worked and lived there, along with their invaluable contributions.

Joy Gleason Carew, Ph.D., professor in U of L's Pan-African Studies program, will discuss the opportunities and challenges of current projects at Locust Grove to develop new characters and to help expand the stories of the enslaved at Locust Grove. Tea and dessert will follow. Reservations required; call (502)897-9845. Admission \$15; \$10 for members.



MEMBERS' AND VOLUNTEERS' SPECIAL EVENT:
A Visit to Shaker Village at Pleasant Hill



Thursday, March 14, 9:00 AM — 3:30 PM

This is a special opportunity for Locust Grove volunteers and members to get a private, behind-the-scenes tour at historic Shaker Village at Pleasant Hill. This experience will include a tour with Collections Manager **Aaron Genton** to learn how preservation staff members care for its 10,000-piece collection, followed by lunch at the iconic Trustees' Table restaurant.

The Shakers were 19th-century America's largest and best-known communal society. In 1805, a group of Shakers came to central Kentucky and established Pleasant Hill.

During their 105-year span, the Pleasant Hill Shakers constructed more than 260 structures on the property — built from 1809 to 1875. Thirty-four of these structures survive today — the country's largest private collection of original 19th-century buildings — as well as many stunning stacked-stone walls.

Cost \$35 per person — which includes admission, lunch, and the private behind-the-scenes tour. We'll be car-pooling from Locust Grove, departing at 9:00 a.m., returning to Locust Grove at approximately 3:30 p.m.

Space is limited! Reservations deadline is Thursday, February 28. Call (502) 897-9845 for reservations and further information.

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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Ben Franklin

We note with sadness the recent death of this member of our Locust Grove family. We treasure his generous contributions to Locust Grove of time, energy, support, and enthusiasm.

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 WWW.LOCUSTGROVE.ORG, OR CALL US AT (502) 897-9845 FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND DETAILS.

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‘RAISE A GLASS’ TO LOCUST GROVE’S SMALL FARM DISTILLERY

In early November, a video crew from Townsends, a company that focuses on historic folkways and foods, visited the distillery to record how apple brandy would have been made during Croghan’s time.

“We ground a variety of local apples, added hot water and sugar, and put it all in a barrel to make the mash — exactly as they would have done in the early 1800s,” says **Brian Cushing**, Locust Grove’s program director and distillery expert.

“But since we don’t have a distiller’s license, one of our project sponsors, **Kentucky Artisan Distillery**, volunteered to ferment and distill the mash as close to the historic process as possible,” adds Brian. “I’m delighted to report that the brandy is surprisingly smooth and fruity.”

In a related development, Locust Grove now holds a Kentucky Alcoholic Beverages “Qualified Historic Site License.” This allows Locust Grove to sell alcoholic beverages by the drink at public and private functions held on site, as well as purchase and store alcoholic beverages — a great advancement in our hospitality.



Carpet Replaced on Historic House Stairs

When the museum house opened for tours in February, visitors saw new carpeting on the stairs.

The reproduction Venetian striped carpet that had been installed during the 2008-2010 restoration had become very worn. The natural fibers in the period-appropriate carpeting just couldn’t withstand the wear and tear from thousands of feet trekking up and down the staircases.

In January, we removed the old carpet and installed an unobtrusive yet durable industrial carpet. The reproduction Venetian striped carpet remains on the second-floor landing and hallway.

Also in January, we reorganized the volunteer research library and spruced up the Visitors’ Center and Gallery — which included installing energy-efficient LED lighting.



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



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REVOLUTIONARY WAR ENCAMPMENT
Saturday & Sunday,
April 27 & 28, 10:00 AM – 4:30 PM



Winter 2019



SPRING USED BOOK SALE

*Members-Only**

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 28,
5:00 PM – 7:30 PM**

**To become a member, visit
[www.locustgrove.org/participate/
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Open to the Public:

**FRIDAY, MARCH 1, 10:00 AM – 7:00 PM
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***The more that you read, the more things you will know.
The more you learn, the more places you'll go. — Dr. Seuss***

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