



GROVE GAZETTE

Fall 2022

2023 – A YEAR-LONG FOCUS ON LOCUST GROVE'S LANDSCAPE

Carol Ely, Executive Director

I love maps.

A map is the most densely concentrated and effective method ever created for communicating spatial and cultural information. Maps can be mysterious and imaginative – “terra incognita” and “here are dragons.” Maps can lie, presenting geographic impossibilities and political pipe dreams. Maps can be expressive works of art, hand-lettered and delicately colored. Locust Grove has a fine collection of early maps of the region.

Mapping and surveying the land that became America was a passion for explorers and settlers and was essential to making the claims that would provide, in their eyes at least, legitimacy. The Louisville area was divided and subdivided by warring factions of land claimants, actually delaying development of the region until the claims were sorted out. Many claims by the indigenous inhabitants never were resolved.

William Croghan, who surveyed large tracts of Kentucky, knew these disputes and carefully chose his land for building his gentleman's country “seat” Locust Grove – combining three separate tracts of land, one of which was purchased from President James Madison. Croghan had to sue Madison's estate to take possession of the deed for the property.



Map by Luke Munsell, 1818

Geo Data:
28.24°
North West;
85.66°



Map by John Filson, 1784

Via maps, we can zoom in through time as the accumulation of landscape information becomes known to other mapmakers. From the blob that was North America in the 1600s, we see “Kentucke” take shape in the 1700s, and finally we find Jefferson County and even “Major Croghan's Seat” – Locust Grove. His 700 original acres were whittled by development to the 55 acres remaining in the current historic site, obscuring the story later recovered in part through archaeological and documentary research.

In 2023, through our lecture series and other programs, we'll be focusing on the deep history of the 700 acres of Croghan's Locust Grove. We'll track this plot from bedrock to the present, looking at geology, climate, plants, animals, and all the various humans who have passed through and left traces here in the last millennium, from the Shawnee to the builders of our 2022 pavilion.

We'll create a multi-layered map tracking our research as the year progresses. We're looking forward to having you join us for this adventure in *terra incognita*.



Fish peppers, named because they often were used to make a hot seasoned vinegar to sprinkle on fried fish — which Louisa could have caught from the Ohio River.

DIRECTOR'S LETTER

Staff as well as visitors appreciate the diverse native wildlife of Locust Grove, such as chipmunks and squirrels, and even wild minks — though not so much the moles and skunks. The varied and plentiful birds, from red-tailed hawks in the sky above to the titmouse nesting in the eaves, would delight Audubon.



Louisa's House and Garden



Greasy Beans — On the vine and shelled Greasy beans can be eaten as a green bean; but the seeds can also be cooked up like any other dry bean over the winter. Dual purpose practicality!

As for the larger fauna, our gardener **Sarah Sutherland** warns, “Deer are beautiful, graceful, and gentle, and it seems kind to feed them, especially when they have fawns at their side. However, feeding deer draws them closer to human habitation and our roadways. Please leave deer to forage in the woods, away from our homes, landscaping, and roads. If you see a dead deer (or other animal) in the roadway, call 311 to file a report with Metro.

“We also have noted an increase in coyote sightings,” Sarah adds. “It is not legal to hunt or trap coyotes on Metro Parks property, and they play a part in the circle of life by keeping the deer population down.”

Visitors often have questions about the unfamiliar plantings in the small garden that’s next to Louisa’s House. It represents what an enslaved family might have had next to their dwelling. “We planted vegetables typical of those gardens — Southern Queen sweet potatoes, yellow onions, peanuts, Green Glaze collards, white greasy beans, and other heritage vegetables,” says Sarah. “The fence around Louisa’s garden is made of long, straight shrub trimmings and hazelwood uprights — with fig-tree trimmings woven through.”

The landscape of the site has been altered over the years, from the open woodlands and rocky bluffs of 300 years ago to the cultivated, human-made, and climate-changed historic site of today. However, non-native plants such as the Japanese chaff flower, a recent arrival, make restoring the woods and meadows difficult.

We may not be able to turn back time, but we can study and explore all the overlapping landscapes of Locust Grove. That’s what we plan to do in the coming year. (See cover story.) We hope you’ll join us.

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The mission of Historic Locust Grove is to preserve and interpret the historic landscape and buildings of Locust Grove, the final home of Louisville’s founder George Rogers Clark, and to tell the stories of all the individuals who lived and worked here, both free and enslaved, cultivating a deeper understanding of the present through a richer understanding of the past.

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Field Trips and Tours Flourish, Thanks to Docents and Volunteers

Locust Grove is welcoming more and more visitors who want to explore the history of the site and the lives of all the people who lived and worked here.

School field trips have returned to Locust Grove with as much enthusiasm as before the pandemic. In just the first two months of the 2022 school year, Locust Grove has welcomed 659 students for field trips from public, private, parochial, and homeschool groups.

Students are once again keeping docents and volunteers busy answering questions, demonstrating historic trades, and sharing the stories of early Louisville.

Locust Grove staff members **Kaitlyn Tisdale** and **Heather Hiner** are revising the curriculum and adjusting the hands-on activities that students enjoy on site. Students begin their trip with a newly developed children's film that features the Croghan children and family as they interact with the enslaved people on the farm.

A discussion led by a Locust Grove staff member follows the 10-minute film, asking students questions about the interactions and activities portrayed in the film. Then the students enjoy a guided tour of the house with a knowledgeable docent, often in addition to demonstrations by a hearth cook and trades- and craftspeople.



Docent Troy Overton engages students and teachers with information and stories during a school field trip.

"I especially love the field trips where I can see Locust Grove through the eyes of a child," says docent **Mitzi Root**. "It brings me joy to watch their faces light up with understanding as they learn how others lived without the 'creature comforts' we enjoy today."

Along with school groups, many other visitors are coming to Locust Grove as tourism returns to pre-pandemic levels. With this lively increase in activity, Locust Grove is now recruiting more docents and other volunteers.

In addition to being a docent, opportunities include demonstrating in the hearth kitchen and helping with historic games and trades, assisting at events such as the Gardeners' Fair and seasonal big book sales, and working with the gardener and in the Visitors' Center.

"It's wonderful to be a docent at Locust Grove and to offer our guests a close look at the lives of all the people who lived here," says **Troy Overton**. "Their stories are like our own — one time comic and joyful and then tragic and painful. The beauty and the significance of Locust Grove is still alive here at this place. It is a privilege to share that experience with others."

If you'd like to join Locust Grove's volunteer family, please contact Director of Interpretation **Kaitlyn Tisdale** at ktisdale@locustgrove.org or by calling (502) 897-9845 x.105. She will be delighted to help you find your perfect role at Locust Grove.



Unusual Gifts, Great Bargains MUSEUM STORE HOLIDAY SALES ARE HERE

Avoid the holiday travel hassles and shop at Locust Grove for unique gifts, fascinating books, fun holiday treasures, and much more. Sales begin the day after Thanksgiving and continue to December 23rd. General store hours are Tuesdays through Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Big Holiday Sale — Nov. 25–Dec. 7. Save 20 percent on almost everything in the store.

Special Sales Day — December 8 Only. This

is during the Members' Book Sale Preview on Thursday, Dec. 8, from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. **Locust Grove members** will get 25 percent off on items not already on sale.

Holiday Clearance — Dec. 8–Dec. 23. Winter and holiday items on sale. Other select items will be 30-50 percent off. If you've been gambling that the gifts you wanted to buy would still be here, this is your opportunity to snag a great bargain.

Our Site Will Be Closed for Tours in January and February 2023



During the closure, we'll continue to answer the phone and email, take reservations, and answer questions. We'll be cleaning, finishing the interior, making changes in the Visitors' Center, working on collections projects, updating our teaching curricula, and planning for 2023.

Please note that offices will be closed Dec. 24–27; Dec. 30–Jan. 4; and Jan. 16. However, we'll have selected programs in February, including a lecture and a Chamber Music Concert.

It's A Road Trip -
March 4-10, 2023

VISIT HISTORIC VIRGINIA WITH LOCUST GROVE

Volunteers, Locust Grove members, and other friends are invited by the Volunteer Steering Committee to join a six-day road trip to historic Virginia — visiting Thomas Jefferson's Monticello in Charlottesville; the "Colonial Triangle" of Williamsburg, Yorktown, and Jamestown; and the Black History Museum and Cultural Center of Virginia in Richmond.

You'll have guided tours at the five historic sites, as well as opportunities to explore on your own at several of the historic areas. You'll travel in comfortable air-conditioned motor coaches operated by Miller Travel. Included are five nights of lodging and all breakfasts at the hotels and three special dinners. Lunches will be on your own

The tour cost ranges from \$1,190 to \$1270 for double occupancy, depending upon the number of paying passengers. (The final price will be determined in early December once we know how many will be traveling with us.) The single supplement is \$302.

A deposit of one-half of the cost of the trip is due by December 12, 2022.

The remaining balance will be due February 13, 2023. To register, contact Kaitlyn Tisdale at ktisdale@locustgrove.org.

Here's your itinerary:

March 4 — Coach departs Locust Grove at 7:00 a.m. for arrival at Charlottesville's Shops at Stonefield around 4:30 p.m. The center features a Trader Joe's, local shops, and a diverse selection of restaurants for dinner on your own. You'll arrive at your hotel about 6:30 p.m.

March 5 — After breakfast at your hotel, you'll drive to **Monticello** for a guided tour of the house and grounds. You'll lunch on your own at Monticello Farm Table, which offers diners selections based on local foods and the culinary legacy of Monticello's enslaved gardeners and cooks. You'll then journey to Williamsburg, where you'll have an included dinner from one of Williamsburg's best Italian restaurants, Sal's by Victor, followed by tickets to the 65-seat Wagsters Magic Theater for a magic show that will astonish and amaze you.

March 6 — A local guide will join you to travel to **Jamestown Settlement**. There you'll have a two-hour guided tour and another hour for a self-guided tour of the museum. After a lunch on your own in charming Jamestown, you'll travel about a half-hour to the **American Revolutionary Museum at Yorktown**. There you'll enjoy a two-hour guided tour followed by a one-hour self-guided tour of the gallery. You'll return to Williamsburg for an included dinner at the popular Rocco's Smokehouse.

March 8 — After your full breakfast buffet, you'll delight in a three-hour guided tour of **Colonial Williamsburg (CW)**, with lunch on your own in Merchants Square at the end of CW's Duke of Gloucester Street. You'll have the afternoon on your own to tour the Governor's Palace, the DeWitt Wallace Gallery, or other CW attractions. For the included dinner, you'll relish the delicious offerings at Captain George's Seafood Buffet.

March 9 — After breakfast, you'll travel an hour to Richmond to visit the **Black History Museum and Cultural Center**. For 40 years, this center has been celebrating and preserving the rich culture and moving histories of Black people in Virginia. After the tour, you'll begin the return journey to Louisville, with lunch on the way to the evening's stop in Huntington, W.Va. There you'll have dinner on your own.

March 10 — Depart Huntington for Locust Grove, arriving around 11:30 a.m.



On a gorgeous Saturday in mid-October, Locust Grove celebrated the season, 1816-style. First Person Interpreters (FPIs) portrayed members of the Croghan and Clark families; Museum Theater Actors (MTAs) portrayed members of the enslaved community. On the grounds were a spinner demonstrating her craft, a leather worker describing the importance of leather fire buckets filled

with sand, and a farmer shearing some of her sheep that required both a spring and a fall shearing.

Some 200 21st century visitors toured the house where they met “family members” and roved the autumnal grounds, engaging the interpreters, actors and other participants as they pursued their various activities.

FALL ON THE FARM – A SEASONAL SUCCESS



Musician **Tammy Burke** as Sarah Taylor entertained guests on the porch of the house. Sarah and her husband Richard owned the neighboring farm, “Springfield,” and were the parents of Zachary Taylor who became the 12th U.S. President.



The talented First Person Interpreters (FPIs) portray the Clarks, Croghans, their neighbors and relatives. Led by **Heather Hiner**, they interacted with guests in the house and on the grounds with luncheon, games, and dancing. The Museum Theater Actors (MTAs) portray enslaved individuals. Led by **Brandi Lashay Threatt**, they worked in the hearth kitchen and around the grounds and did a performance for the visitors.



Demonstrator **Rosanne Gordon** gave sheep-to-shawl presentations throughout the day.



MTAs (from the left) **Tajleed Hardy**, **Brandi Lashay Threatt**, and **Sa'id Kelly** delighted their 21st century audience with a performance of “John Redding Floats.” Brandi wrote the short play, inspired by a folktale written by Zora Neale Hurston.



Guests were fascinated as Ballyhoo Farm and Fiber Emporium farmer **Madeline Rosenberg** sheared her sheep, Pearly. The breeds of sheep that Madeline brought to the event are ones that must be sheared both in the spring and the fall or their coats would weigh down the sheep. Pearly and the others who were sheared that day will grow their coats quickly to provide protection for the winter.



Visitors learned to dance the Sir Roger de Coverley dance with First Person Interpreters at the close of the event.

WELCOME

ANDREA MERIWETHER

Locust Grove welcomes new Board member **Andrea Meriwether**, a hospitality and spirits professional who honed her career in craft bartending at the historic Pendennis Club. She also has advised Louisville Tourism on Black history in the bourbon industry and promoted cultural tourism for the region.

As the owner of **Barfare Concepts**, Andrea creates and produces joyful food- and spirit-related events and programs. In 2018, Andrea founded the Farm Distilled Residency Project in partnership with Historic Locust Grove. It's a program about the history and skills of the distilling trade for Black, Indigenous, and people of color and for women



in the food and beverage industry. Although this project was temporarily paused for the pandemic, it resumes this coming spring at Locust Grove's Farm Distillery.

As a professional historic curator, Andrea's recent project with Louisville Tourism called "Unfiltered Truth" uplifts the narrative of African American contributors in the food, beverage, arts, and culture space, including through Locust Grove's "Unfolding the Story" tour. Andrea also travels frequently to New Orleans as part of her curatorial residency with the Southern Food and Beverage Museum.

BIG DECEMBER BOOK SALE

Members' Preview* - Thursday, December 8, 10 AM to 7 PM

**(Memberships available online at www.locustgrove.com)*

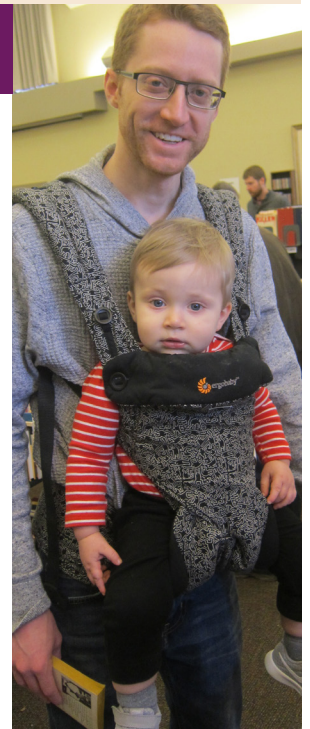
Public Sale - Friday to Sunday, December 9 to 11, 10 AM to 4:30 PM

At Locust Grove's Big Holiday Book Sale, you'll find gifts that fit everyone on your list.

As at our other big book sales, many books are \$1 for paperbacks and \$2 for hardbacks. Books are sorted into categories such as History, Children's, Cooking, Mystery, Fiction, Kentucky and Indiana, Travel, Literature, and so much more — all great for cozy winter reading.

On the individually priced side of the room, you'll find special gift-quality books, used and new, along with special editions, elegant literary works, and other unusual finds. There also will be a collection of beautiful remaindered books at great prices, as well.

Enjoying the book sale is free, as always. However, on Saturday, Dec. 10, the book sale runs concurrently with Christmas on the Farm, which requires the purchase of a ticket to join in that event. *(See story on the back cover.)*



'WHAT IS THE ANNUAL FUND?' *Kate Widdowson, Development and Membership Coordinator*

Near the end of each year, you may receive an annual appeal package from us that tells you what we have been up to this year and guides us into the next. And every year, we are so thankful for the support from our Locust Grove community.

Together, we are working to preserve the buildings and history for Louisville residents and beyond. Your contributions to the annual fund support our ability to continue to delve further into this history and to find new ways to tell our story, engage new and repeat visitors, maintain our historic landscape — and even to keep the lights on!

If you do not receive our annual mailing, you may request to be added to this mailing list by calling (502) 897-9845 or emailing me at kwiddowson@locustgrove.org.

There are a variety of ways to contribute to our annual fund — by mail, phone, through our website, or you may set up a monthly or quarterly donation online through **Network for Good** (nfggive.org).

We are most grateful to past donors and to those who have already contributed this year. You make Locust Grove a great historic site!

Donations Received from July 1 through October 15, 2022

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 15, 2022

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Nancy Lee

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EMILIE STRONG SMITH CHAMBER MUSIC CONCERT RETURNS

The Evolving Cello: Sonatas and Sinfonia by Italian Virtuosi
Sunday, February 19, 2023. Door opens, 5 PM; Concert, 5:30 PM

The Emilie Strong Smith Chamber Music Series is back in person, offering concertgoers a unique opportunity to enjoy music that the Clarks and Croghans might have heard in the room where they most likely would have enjoyed it — the second-floor Great Parlor of the historic house.

Theorbist **Jeffrey Noonan** and baroque cellist **Stephanie Hunt** will present a program of sonatas for solo cello by early Italian masters. The evening will feature a stunning set of selections by composers Dall'Abaco, Vandini, and Bononcini. Join us for an evening of exciting and entrancing music from



18th-century Italy. Refreshments are at 5:00 p.m.; the concert begins at 5:30 p.m. Concert tickets are \$20.

Make reservations at www.locustgrove.org or by calling (502) 897-9845.



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



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“A book has no unwanted calories, and you don’t have to worry about sizes as long as the subject matter appeals to the recipient.”

— Sue Grafton



Big Holiday Book Sale!
Dec. 9-11, 10 AM – 4:30 PM
(Members' Preview:
Dec. 8, 10 AM – 7 PM)

Fall 2022

Christmas on the Farm, Saturday, December 10, 12 Noon – 7 PM



Immerse yourself in 19th century Christmastime and join Locust Grove as we celebrate the incoming winter season with friends and family.

At this Christmastide event, we will enjoy the Locust Grove’s Museum Theater Actors and the First Person Interpreters in character as both free and enslaved residents at Locust Grove in 1816. You’ll see the work of the farm as they prepare for winter by preserving food, decorating the house, and planning for family gatherings. We’ll also have holiday crafts, refreshments, and more. At 1:00 p.m., students from Louisville’s Lincoln Performing Arts School will join the festivities with a holiday musical performance.

Many of this program’s events will take place outdoors, so please come prepared for the cold weather. \$8 for adults, \$4 for children ages 6-12, and children under 6 are free.

Be sure to stop by the Big December Book Sale in the auditorium while you’re visiting Christmas on the Farm. There you’ll find a wide array of books priced at \$1 and \$2, as well as many special and new books at bargain prices, perfect for gift-giving.

HISTORIC LOCUST GROVE

GROVE GAZETTE

www.locustgrove.org