

# GROVE GAZETTE

Historic Locust Grove

561 Blankenbaker Lane

Louisville, KY 40207

(502) 897-9845

www.locustgrove.org



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## Diane Statler Spirit Award Winner



To many thousands of school kids, she's the cook at Locust Grove. To hundreds of antiques dealers, she's the organizer of Locust Grove's semi-annual Antiques Markets. To many docents, she's a leader, a mentor, and a great friend. To Locust Grove's Board, she's a valuable participant. To all of us at Locust Grove, **Diane Statler** is a most-deserving recipient of this quarter's Spirit Award.

Diane has been volunteering at Locust Grove for 15 years, although she'd been attending the Antiques Markets here for many years. "It was because of those markets that I became involved in Locust Grove when my family returned to Louisville," Diane says.

Diane and her husband Jim now own Oakridge Antiques on Old Shelbyville Road in Middletown, specializing in transferware and American historical china.

"I enjoy seeing how the antiques I collect were used, and sharing what I've learned (and continue to learn) about history and the past with the students," she says. "I like being able to help the children understand that life wasn't always like it is now and that our forefathers worked long and hard to get us where we are today. Then history becomes relevant — and they start to see, through the past, that history happens everyday."

Program Director **Mary Beth Williams** says that Diane is



a wonderful, dependable volunteer. "The question isn't what does Diane do here; the question is, what *doesn't* she do here!" Mary Beth declares.

Adds Historic Locust Grove's Executive Director **Carol Ely**, "Diane has a great sense of humor, and can always put everything in perspective. She's thorough in her preparation and her presentation is creative and engaging. She makes my day."

And that's true for all of us. Congratulations, Diane!

## Yearly Events Mark Your Calendars!

First Wednesday Lecture Series  
1:00 p.m. — the first Wednesday of the month (except January and May).

Two Big Used Book Sales  
Great book bargains abound during the second weekend in March and last weekend in August.

18<sup>th</sup> Century Thunder  
Our Revolutionary War Encampment — held the Saturday and Sunday of "Thunder Weekend" in April.

Gardeners' Fair & Auction  
Friday, Saturday, Sunday — held the second weekend in May

Gardeners' Fair Brunch  
Sunday during the Gardeners' Fair. *Reservations required.*

Two Antiques Markets  
Held on the last Sundays in June and in September.

18<sup>th</sup> Century Market Fair  
Held Saturday and Sunday on the last weekend in October.

Holiday Candlelight Tours  
Costumed interpreters in the house and out-buildings on Friday and Saturday in early December.

## From the Director's Desk

Carol Ely, Ph.D., *Executive Director*

In the new year 2011, we mark the bicentennial of a remarkable year in the history of Louisville and of the young United States. The year 1811 brought marvels of technology and unprecedented natural wonders, but also widespread natural destruction and rumors of war.

At Locust Grove, William and Lucy Croghan presided over a household that included George Rogers Clark and most of their eight children, while the work of the farm and the house was accomplished by about 34 slaves. That summer, Clark was able to spend a few months at a spa in nearby Indiana recovering his health. Eldest son John Croghan was finishing his medical studies in Philadelphia, and his brother George, a recent graduate of William & Mary College, was heading towards a military career like his uncle — a fateful choice given the war clouds gathering over the country.

### Wanted: Your Used Books!

Wildly popular! Highly successful!  
Greatly anticipated! Fantastic!

Locust Grove's Used Book Sales are all these things and so much more for one important reason — **YOU!**

**All the books in our Used Book Sales have been donated by generous readers.** Without these donations, there would be no Locust Grove Used Book Sales.

We're accepting items now for our big March sale — history, biography, cooking, children's, mystery, fiction, DVDs, CDs, sports, audiobooks, reference, arts, crafts, literature — we sell it all! (No magazines or textbooks, please.)

Drop off your books, CDs, etc., at the Visitors Center during regular hours — 10:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Mon.-Sat.; 1:00 p.m.-4:30 p.m., Sun.

Have more books than you can handle? We'll pick them up for you! Just call us at (502) 897-9845 to make arrangements.

Because all proceeds go to support Locust Grove, your donations are tax-deductible. Be sure to get a receipt.

**Don't miss the sale, March 11-13.** (Members' preview on March 10.) And **thanks** for helping make Locust Grove's book sale such a success!



In Europe, the Napoleonic Wars pitted Britain against France, with America officially neutral. But British harassment of American shipping renewed the old conflict with Britain. This tension also played out on the northern frontier of the new country, with British-backed native Americans locked in hostilities with settlers.



*The arrival of steamboats in Louisville in 1811 changed life on the Ohio River forever.*

Young George Croghan and two of his Clark cousins set off in the fall of 1811 for the Wabash River area to join the Indian Wars against chief Tecumseh that ended with the militia's victory at Tippecanoe.

In October 1811, life on the Ohio changed forever with the arrival in Louisville of the first steamboat, the Fulton-built *New Orleans*, on its maiden voyage from Pittsburgh down the Ohio and the Mississippi. A trip downriver at that time was unremarkable; but this boat had the capacity to carry people and goods *upriver* as well. This made commerce on the Ohio and Mississippi practical and profitable and reinforced Louisville's key position as a transportation hub. For the next few decades, boomtown Louisville would be crucial to the economy and politics of the nation.

And, as if to signal that a new age had begun, a brilliant comet became visible in the night sky. But perhaps it was instead a portent. On December 16, 1811, the great New Madrid earthquake, centered in Missouri, was (and remains) the largest earthquake known in North America.

John James Audubon, friend of the Croghans, felt the impact as he passed very close to the epicenter on a trip from New Orleans back to Kentucky. The Mississippi River reversed its course temporarily and the new steamboat passed through a vastly altered river and landscape around St. Louis. Aftershocks lasted for months, causing chimneys to fall as far away as Louisville.

Follow along with us in 2011 as we see how the residents of Locust Grove experienced — and influenced — national events in that remarkable year of 1811.

*Carol Ely*

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561 Blankenbaker Lane  
Louisville, KY 40207  
(502) 897-9845  
(502) 896-2433  
www.locustgrove.org

The mission of Historic Locust Grove, Inc. is to preserve and interpret the 55-acre site, with its circa 1790 house and out-buildings, the collection, and the gardens, as an example of early 19th century frontier America.

It is also our mission to share the stories of the many people who contributed to the history of Locust Grove, emphasizing the life of General George Rogers Clark, Revolutionary War hero and founder of the city of Louisville.

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Other photography credits: Bob Boone,  
Gary Bourne, Kathy Cummings,  
Carol Ely, Christina Freitag, Jennifer  
Jansen, Mary Beth Williams

## Primary Source Documents About Historic Locust Grove

# Voices From The Past

We recently acquired two letters written in 1828 to Eliza Croghan Hancock, who lived at Fotheringay estate in Virginia with her husband George Hancock.

This letter was written by her sister, Ann Croghan Jesup, who lived in Washington, D. C.'s Lafayette Square, across from the White House. At the time the letter was written, their older brothers John and William were living at Locust Grove with their mother, Lucy Croghan. William's wife Mary had died

at Locust Grove the previous fall, and he planned to move back to Pittsburgh to be with his young children, William and Mary, who are mentioned in this letter. Eliza and George Hancock would take his place in managing Locust Grove with Lucy.

The letter has been edited for publication here, but contains more detail about Ann's life in Washington. Some punctuation has been added, along with a few brief explanations with the text.

### To Eliza C. Hancock at Fotheringay, Montgomery City, Va., Feb. 24, 1828, Washington City



Fotheringay, Eliza Croghan Hancock's home in Virginia.

My Dear Sister,

*I was becoming very uneasy at your long silence & was determined to write today to know what had become of you and Mr. Hancock when your letter was handed to me. I hope Mr. Hancock received no serious injury from his fall off his horse. He will I trust get a good price for Fotheringay. Governor James Preston said it is the finest estate in that part of the country....*

*I have just received a letter from Brother William the first that he has written to me for a great while poor fellow how low spirited he is.... Mama writes me that she and brother William are doing all they can to have all things*

*in good order when Mr. Hancock and yourself arrive there, she prays that you both may be satisfied with things as you find them....*

*Looking out my window at the President's House makes me think of the wedding that is to be in it tomorrow. John Adams (John the third as Mr. Cutts calls him) is to marry his cousin Mary Hellen. I have not been out to a party this winter though the City never was gay, 'tis quite a show to walk down the Avenue to see the fine dressed Ladies, with their leg of mutton sleeves that make their sholders look at least a yard a cross. Twenty times as I walked down to the Capitol yesterday with little Lucy Ann by the hand, did I wish you were with us & Luce would say "now I am sure that Aunt would admire that Ladies Yellow Bonnet trimmed with black," but what she thought you would admire more than all was a set of tea cups & saucers of this ware that looks like Silver.*

*Genl. Jesup is going to Kentucky this Spring as soon as Congress adjourns & I do not know what to do about remaining behind....*

*Genl. Jesup tells me to ask you if Mrs. Hancock would sell Nancy's time.... She now is very valuable to me. She does nothing but clean out the nursery & attend to the children & she is very fond of them & takes excellent care of them she is very fond of dressing them and taking them out to visit....*

*Mr. Baldwin in Pittsburgh says Will Croghan is the finest boy he ever saw & Mary is a lovely child it did me good to hear him speak of those poor little children. Mary has quite recovered I sat up with her for two nights she was dangerously ill with Quinsy and inflammation on the Lungs. Mrs. Findley stayed constantly with me. She was as kind as Mama could have been.*

*My love to Mr. Hancock & the ladies. Your affectionate sister Ann*

**Note:** Will Croghan, the "finest boy," died only a month later. Mary Croghan grew to adulthood and has descendents living today. Eliza's move back to Locust Grove was ill-fated; she died there of cholera in 1833.



## Slave Life at Locust Grove: New Exhibit Room and Program

As part of a long-term effort to research and present the life of the enslaved African-Americans who lived and worked at Locust Grove, we have designated the outbuilding known as the "Residence" as a re-creation of a slave dwelling during the first decades of the 19th century when the Croghans and George Rogers Clark lived on the site.

This structure, a single room and loft, is the center section of the outbuilding row directly east of the main

House, between the kitchen and the smokehouse. This room probably was *not* originally used as a slave residence, rather as either a residence for an overseer or caretaker or perhaps even as the laundry for the site.

However, in the absence of an original or reconstructed slave house on the site, using this room allows us to discuss and interpret the living and working space of an enslaved family.

We plan to present the space as the workroom of Locust Grove's seamstress and shoemaker, who would use both the downstairs

room (with a fireplace) and the upstairs unheated loft as both family and working space.

The presentation of the Slave Residence will be launched at a weekend event — **Slave Life at Locust Grove** on February 26 and 27. Two of Locust Grove's graduate interns from the University of Louisville's Public History program have researched this subject over the past year and have planned this weekend of guided tours and costumed interpretation.

Intern **Marissa Williams** will offer tours of the House and site focusing on the lives of the enslaved African-Americans, whose presence would have been felt in every room of the House and every foot of the grounds. The recently completed re-restoration of the historic House has included a new emphasis on restoring the traces of their presence.



*Tiffany Caesar (left) and Marissa Williams are ready to present the new interpretation program on Slave Life at Locust Grove.*

Intern and current Locust Grove weekend manager **Tiffany Caesar** will use her theater skills to re-enact the role of Hannah, imagined as the skilled seamstress who sewed for the family within the space of the recreated Slave Residence.

## Spring Docent Training Set

"The love of history. The chance to stand on a threshold where George Rogers Clark, Lewis and Clark, three presidents, one vice-president, John James Audubon, and thousands of others, slave and free, have passed. The ability to learn constantly, and to relate that history, that story to visitors from schoolchildren to adults. Now *that's* irresistible."

Volunteer Steering Committee Chair and docent **Nina Ayres** sums up some of the major reasons why Locust Grove's docents are enthusiastic volunteers at this historic site. If you'd like to join Locust Grove's corps of docents (tour guides), here's your opportunity. The three-part training session begins **Thursday, March 17**, with the following two sessions to be held on **April 21** and **May 19**.

"We do the training over three months to give docent-trainees enough time to learn the material and shadow different docents," explains **Mary Beth Williams**, Locust Grove's program director. "Our goal is to have well-trained docents who can give a meaningful and interesting tour.

"Too often, docents think they have to know everything there is to know about the Croghans and George Rogers Clark and Locust Grove before they can be a docent," she smiles. "But of course, that's impossible. None of us knows 'everything' there is to know about the site. That's why we have in-services, lectures, and a rich source of books and other materials in our library."

Requirements for being a docent include an ease of speaking with the public, an interest in history, availability to volunteer at least twice a month, and the ability to go up and down three flights of stairs easily.

This spring training session will be held from 10:00 a.m. to noon on the third Thursday in March, April, and May. But Mary Beth will work out a schedule for those who can't attend daytime sessions.

**For more information, please call Mary Beth Williams at (502) 897-9845.**

### Introductory Events — 'Slave Life at Locust Grove'

*(In case of bad weather, all events will be moved to March 5 and 6)*

#### Saturday, February 26

- 11:00 a.m. —**  
Introduction to "Slave Life" program in the auditorium
- 11:15 a.m., 1:15 p.m., 3:15 p.m. —**  
Guided tours, "Slave Life at Locust Grove"
- 12:15 p.m., 2:15 p.m. —**  
Presentation: "Hannah, the Seamstress" in the Slave Residence

#### Sunday, February 27

- 1:15 p.m., 3:15 p.m.—**  
Guided tours, "Slave Life at Locust Grove"
- 2:15 p.m.—**  
Presentation: "Hannah, the Seamstress" in the Slave Residence

Regular tour prices apply and include all tours and presentations as well as the Museum gallery, which further explores the lives of the slaves at Locust Grove.

The program will be offered to schools on Friday, February 25 and again at various times later in the year. The Slave Residence room will be included in all regular tours of the site.

## 2011 FIRST WEDNESDAY LECTURE SERIES

*Our lecture series this year offers a variety of interesting speakers and unusual topics that relate to the lives of the Croghans, Clark, and the region. Lectures are held on the first Wednesday of each month, except for January and May. Desserts and beverages are served at 1:00 p.m., with the lecture immediately following. Admission is \$5, or \$3 for Friends of Locust Grove.*

### CHOLERA

Wednesday, February 2, 1:00 p.m.

In 1833, Central Kentucky was swept by a fierce cholera epidemic that killed hundreds in a few weeks, including Eliza Croghan Hancock at Locust Grove. How did this happen? Who were the unsung heroes? Why are thousands still succumbing to cholera today? **Terry Foody, RN, MSN**, brings light to the bitter reality of this scourge through slides and stories. She shows that where you live and who's in charge can be a matter of life and death. Terry is a featured speaker for the Kentucky Humanities Council.

*This lecture is free, thanks to underwriting by the Kentucky Humanities Council.*



### THE SPECTATOR

Wednesday, March 2, 1:00 p.m.

George Rogers Clark's favorite reading included Addison & Steele's *The Spectator* — a British political, literary, and entertainment periodical. Articles offered political and social satire from different perspectives. **Gwynne Potts**, author of *George Rogers Clark & Locust Grove*, tells us all about this publication in which some of the thoughts expressed 300 years ago seem nearly as true today.



### NATIVE PLANT LIFE

Wednesday, April 6, 1:00 p.m.

Retired *Courier-Journal* columnist and Hidden Hill Nursery owner **Bob Hill** will speak about native plants — including the ones that the Croghans would have been familiar with and perhaps used both medicinally and decoratively. By definition, native plants are tough and durable; but they also can be used to add color, form and function, and can make you feel a lot better about yourself and your landscape — be they grasses, perennials, shrubs or trees.



## 2010-2011 EMILIE STRONG SMITH CHAMBER MUSIC SERIES

*The Emilie Strong Smith Chamber Music Series is a rare opportunity to enjoy music much as the Croghans and Clarks would in the early 1800s. Light refreshments are served on the first floor of the historic house at 5:00 p.m.; the concerts are at 5:30 p.m. in the Grand Parlor. Call (502) 897-9845 for further information and to purchase tickets.*

### RESCHEDULED DECEMBER CONCERT

Sunday, February 27, 5:00 p.m.

An evening of Irish music by **Kathy Burger Johnson**. This concert had been postponed due to bad weather in December.

### HAYDN, HANDEL, AND HOBOES

Sunday, March 13, 2011, 5:00 p.m.

**Joyce Alper**, historical woodwind conservation consultant to Boston's Museum of Fine Arts and a veteran of Boston's Handel & Haydn Society, is the featured performer. She'll perform chamber music featuring the classical oboe, along with **Bill Bauer** and the **Locust Grove Chamber Musicians**.

## LOCUST GROVE'S BIG USED BOOK SALE!

Thursday, March 10

Members' Preview, 5:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

*See page 6 for membership information.*

Friday, March 11 — Sunday, March 13

Open to the Public, 10 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Nearly anything you could dream of reading, you'll find at Locust Grove's original, biggest, and best used book sale. Most books are priced 50 cents to \$2. And all day on Sunday, books are half-price, or you can fill one of our bags for \$10 — whichever is the best deal for you.

*But we need your books!  
This fabulous sale is possible  
only through your donation  
of used books.*

Because proceeds of this sale support Locust Grove's programs, your book donations are tax-deductible. Be sure to get a receipt. Bring your books to the Visitors Center during our regular hours. And if you need help getting your books to Locust Grove, call us at (502) 897-9845.

Thanks so much for helping to make Locust Grove's Used Book Sale one of the best in the region!



## ADULT WORKSHOPS

Please call (502) 897-9845 to register. NOTE: Space is limited.

### SEED STARTS AND TRANSPLANTING TIPS

**Saturday, March 19, 10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.**

Jump-start your garden now! Locust Grove Gardener **Sarah Sutherland** will show you how to start plants in a flat and grow them indoors until the weather permits garden planting. Bring your own seeds, or she'll provide seeds from Locust Grove's heritage gardens. You'll learn how to light and water your fledgling plants and get valuable tips for safely transplanting them. Because of the hands-on nature of this workshop, there's a limit of 10 participants. Cost: \$10. Includes flats, cells, soil (and seeds).

### CREATING MARBELIZED FLOOR CLOTHS

**Saturday, April 16, 10:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m., and  
 Sunday, April 17, 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

**Virginia Tucker**, owner of The Virginia Floor Cloth Company in Louisville, returns for another two-day session on creating a marbled floor cloth. This precursor to lineolum can be found throughout the newly restored Locust Grove. The fee includes frames, canvas, paint, brushes, and other materials. The workshop is in two sessions so the first day's paint can dry. Bring a lunch on Saturday or purchase from the 18th Century Thunder concession stand. Cost: \$90 for the two-day workshop.

**Registration Deadline – February 21, 2011**

## Historic Charlottesville Tour

Volunteers and Friends of Locust Grove! Join us for a three-day *all-inclusive* trip to visit historic homes and other sites in Charlottesville, Va. — **Monday through Wednesday, June 13–15, 2011.**

We'll travel by luxury motorcoach to beautiful Charlottesville, arriving in time for dinner on Monday. For the next two days, we'll be immersed in the lives and see the homes of people who helped shape our country during the American Revolution and the early years of our new republic.

We'll have special tours of four historic homes — Thomas Jefferson's **Monticello**, James Monroe's **AshLawn–Highland**, James Madison's **Montpelier**, and Patrick Henry's **Scotchtown**. We'll also make a special stop at the historic marker

denoting the birthplace of George Rogers Clark. And we'll eat at the historic **Mitchie Tavern**, just down the road from Monticello.

After lunch on Wednesday, we'll return to Louisville, with an expected arrival at Locust Grove at 11:00 p.m.

Motorcoach, hotel accommodations, all breakfasts and lunches, and two dinners are included, along with all admissions to the historic homes. The cost is \$800 per person (double occupancy) or \$970 per person (single occupancy).



## 18TH CENTURY THUNDER: A REVOLUTIONARY WAR ENCAMPMENT

**Saturday, April 16 and Sunday, April 17  
 10:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.**

Companies representing General George Rogers Clark's troops from the Northwest Campaign will re-enact life in a military



camp, including surveying, cooking, drilling, and other demonstrations. Chat with the soldiers and their families to learn what life would have been like for a soldier 200+ years ago.

Concessions will be available and tours of the house are included. Admission: \$6 for adults, \$3 for children 6-12, and free for children 5 and under.



Thomas Jefferson's Monticello



James and Dolley Madison's AshLawn–Highland

Please call Program Director **Mary Beth Williams** at (502) 897-9845 or email her at [williams@locustgrove.org](mailto:williams@locustgrove.org) to reserve your space today!



## Friends of Locust Grove

Enrollment/Renewal from October 1 through December 30, 2010

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'd like to become a Friend, please go online to [www.locustgrove.org](http://www.locustgrove.org), or call us at (502) 897-9845 for further information and details.

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## Gallery Named for Samuel W. Thomas

On November 18, 2010, a gala gathering at Locust Grove celebrated decades of involvement by **Dr. Samuel W. Thomas** with the naming of a section of the museum galleries in his honor. The surprise announcement by Board President **Gwynne Potts** brings much-deserved recognition to the man who has been a part of the restoration of Locust Grove from the beginning.

For 18 years, serving as site caretaker and later curator, he lived in the log house now attached to the Martin F. Schmidt Visitors Center. With his brother, **Jim Thomas**, he came to work here just after the site was purchased by the Commonwealth of Kentucky and Jefferson County in 1961.

Sam undertook the essential documentary research to uncover the details of Locust Grove's original appearance and its former inhabitants, and he assisted with the work of preservation as the site was restored.

In subsequent years, Thomas has become a leading local historian, publishing many books including **Views of Louisville Since 1766**, **St. Matthews: Crossroads of the Beargrass**, and histories of Cave Hill Cemetery, Oxmoor, and Churchill Downs. He also served as the Archivist for Jefferson County. Recently, Thomas has returned to study Locust Grove, co-authoring with Gwynne Potts, the book **George Rogers Clark & Locust Grove**.

"The Samuel W. Thomas Galleries" includes a timeline and photographs of the history of the site subsequent to William Croghan's death in 1822. This includes the ownership by the Waters family in the 19th and 20th centuries, and the restoration done during the 1960s and beyond.



Helping Sam celebrate the naming of the gallery are (from the left) his wife Debbie and long-time friends Carol Butler and Sharon Recever.

### Attention, Volunteers:

## Pilkington Award Nominations Now Open

The Locust Grove Volunteer Steering Committee is now accepting nominations for the **Audrey Pilkington Lifetime Achievement Award**, which recognizes volunteers — current or former — who have offered a lifetime of dedication and support to Historic Locust Grove.

Begun in 1998, there now are 10 Audrey Pilkington Lifetime Achievement Award winners — **Emilie Strong Smith, Martin Schmidt, Fred Atkinson, Dorothy Martin, Bob Pilkington, LaMar Gaston, Gwynne Potts, Shirley Dumesnil, Nancy Lee, and Preston Thomas**.

If a 2011 winner is selected, the award will be presented at the volunteer appreciation party. This is your chance to recognize your fellow volunteers! Forms are available from Program Director **Mary Beth Williams**. Nominations must be returned to **Mary Beth by Wednesday, March 16, 2011**.

**Volunteer Appreciation Party**  
Tuesday, April 20 — 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

## Many Thanks to Our Donors

Donations Received from October 1 through December 31, 2010

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.

Thanks to the following people for their most recent donations.

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