

# GROVE GAZETTE

Historic Locust Grove

561 Blankenbaker Lane

Louisville, KY 40207

(502) 897-9845

www.locustgrove.org



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## Bonny Wise – Spirit Award Winner



If you've ever feasted on the foods sold at Locust Grove's concession stand during special events, you've sampled the skills of this quarter's Spirit Award winner, **Bonny Wise**.

Along with kitchen cohort **Joanne Long** and scores of other faithful bakers and concession stand workers, Bonny volunteers hundreds of hours each year to make sure you don't go hungry at one of our events.

Chicken salad sandwiches on croissants and generous slices of Hummingbird cake — two of the items prepared with Bonny's special recipes — are runaway hits. Guests make a beeline for our concession stand to snag a monster Snickerdoodle before they're

all gone. At the recent 18th Century Thunder encampment, chilly weather made her burgoo a most welcome treat.

Officially, Bonny is Locust Grove's part-time marketing coordinator. But she's "on duty" as a volunteer for many additional hours per month — focusing on food, costumes, the new Jane Austen Society, and even doing some interpreting herself.

Her desk is on the second floor of the log cabin, nestled among the costumes used by interpreters. "I love to sew, so I help keep the pieces in good repair," she says. She has made new costumes by hand and refreshed bonnets with ribbon roses she's made especially for them.

Bonny was delighted to help form this region's Jane Austen



Society, a branch of the national group. "Though not a part of Locust Grove's mission, our Society is an 'affinity group,' paralleling Locust Grove's time period," Bonny says.

"I have my dream job," she adds, "and I'm delighted to be able to volunteer as well. Food, sewing, history. What more could I ask?"

## Yearly Events Mark Your Calendars!

### Afternoon Lecture Series

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

### Used Book Sale

Great book bargains to support Locust Grove's programs — held the second weekend in March.

### 18th 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.

### Mothers' Day Brunch

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

### Antiques Markets

Held on the last Sundays in June and in September.

### 18th 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.

# GROVE GAZETTE

## From The Director's Desk

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

It's spring, and finally the end is in sight on our construction project. By summer, our new gallery, surveyor's cabin, and collection storage areas will be complete.

We're very excited about our new exhibit area that will bring history alive through a series of exciting and interactive exhibits. Be sure to mark your calendar now for these Grand Opening events —

### Donors' Gala Opening Party

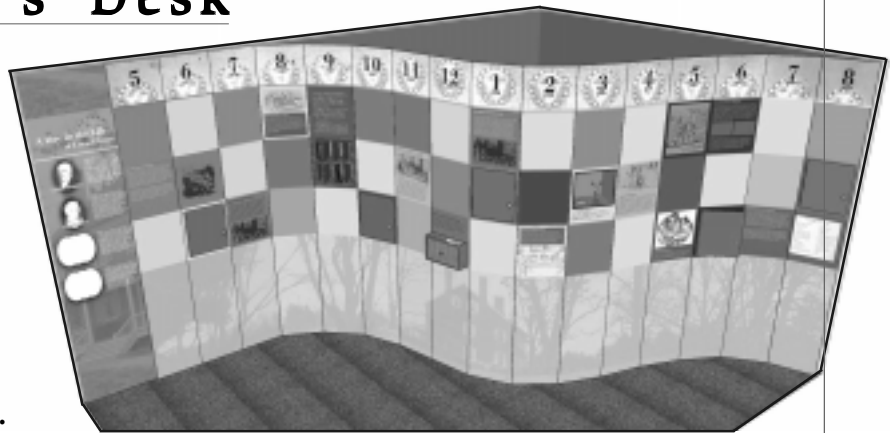
**Wednesday Evening, July 2nd – By invitation only.**

This first look at the new gallery is for project donors, supporters, and VIPs. (Hint #1– It's not too late to become a donor to the Capital Campaign and guarantee your invitation to this most special event.)

### Members' Preview

**Thursday, July 3rd, all day – All members admitted free.**

All of our members — our "Friends of Locust Grove" — will be able to tour our new gallery free of charge during our regular hours, 10:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. (Hint #2 – If you're not



*With interactive elements and images, a wall in the new Gallery follows a typical day in the lives of the owners, children and enslaved workers at Locust Grove.*

yet a Friend of Locust Grove, you may easily join online (see Page 6) or by calling us at (502) 897-9845 for further information.

### Grand Opening

**Friday, July 4th, all day – Free to the public.**

We'll have special events and performances, along with refreshments for sale.

The festivities continue, but with the regular admission charge, through the rest of the weekend, July 5th and 6th. However, we have a new admission category. If you'd like to visit the Gallery only, the price will be \$3. Tours of the house will include the Gallery in the regular \$6 fee.

We're pleased and proud of the work that we've done over the past years in creating a vision for the new gallery and raising the funds from the community to realize that vision.

The exhibit should be beautiful, informative, unexpected, challenging, and a lot of fun. The opening weekend will give us the chance to share the excitement with our supporters, Friends, and the surrounding community in Louisville and the region.

The July 4th date was chosen to commemorate the anniversary of the day that George Rogers Clark's Illinois Regiment captured the British fort at Kaskaskia, Illinois, in 1778. This victory secured the Northwest Territory for the new nation. (Didn't know that? After seeing the new exhibit, you'll understand why that mattered so much!) Oh, and it's also Independence Day.

Please join us as we party like it's 1778 (or 1776, your choice) here on the historic grounds of Locust Grove. We'll be celebrating the roles of George Rogers Clark . . . William Croghan (did you know that he crossed the Delaware with George Washington?) . . . and all the people of this region who helped bring about our nation's independence and prosperity.

*Carol Ely*

### Welcome Back, Mary Beth!



On April 1st, we welcomed our new Program Director, **Mary Beth Williams.**

Mary Beth is not new to Locust Grove. She was an intern here in 2006, and joined our weekend staff in 2006-07, before leaving us for a position with the Kentucky Historical Society's Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial initiative. We're so glad she's back.

Mary Beth brings experience working at other historic sites in Louisville, including Farmington and the Frazier International

History Museum. She also has served an internship at the Smithsonian in Washington, D.C.

A history graduate of Bellarmine University, she holds a Master's degree from the Curatorial Studies program at the University of Louisville.

Mary Beth says, "I am thrilled to be back at Locust Grove, and I look forward to working with the volunteers and staff in my new capacity."

At Locust Grove, she will plan and organize school tours and other programs for youth, including camps. She'll also run many of our large weekend interpretive programs, such as the 18th Century Market Fair held at the end of October.

As if that won't keep her busy enough, she will recruit, schedule, train, and otherwise keep our volunteers happy and working hard.

Grove Gazette is published quarterly by Historic Locust Grove, Inc. for members, volunteers and friends of Historic Locust Grove. © 2008

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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## Getting To Know Locust Grove's Costumed Interpreters

# Rod Smothers – A Multiple Reenactor

### How did you decide to get into costumed interpreting?

In early 2000 when helping my mother do some research, I discovered that the great explorer Simon Kenton was a fifth-great uncle. I was hooked!

That year, I took my family to a military reenactment in Vincennes, Ind. We loved the sights, smells, and sounds of the 18th century; and I ended up joining a Revolutionary War unit. Since then, I've participated in many military reenactments.

And I really got into it — making moccasins, a flintlock rifle, knives and swords, wooden bowls, and simple furniture.

Now I raise enough flax each year, which I use in demonstrations at Locust Grove's 18th Century Market Fair each October. I love showing how we start with a "weed" and end up with linen fabric.

### Who are your Candlelight characters?

I began in 2000 as John O'Fallon.



Rod Smothers as Thomas Bullitt during a Holiday Candlelight Tour in December.

For the past few years, I've been Thomas Bullitt.

John O'Fallon was the son of Fanny Clark O'Fallon. (She was George, Lucy, and William Clark's sister.) John was injured in the War of 1812, and later became assistant to his Uncle William Clark, then the Indian Agent for the Western U.S.

Later in life, John accumulated considerable wealth and invested in banks and railroads. He built a huge summer estate on acreage in St. Louis (now O'Fallon Park). And he was very generous, giving away a million dollars over his lifetime to churches and universities. Cities in Missouri and Illinois are named after him.

However, John was only about 26 years old in 1820, the period for our Candlelight Tours. And since I'm well past that age, I began doing Thomas Bullitt.

Thomas and his brother Cuthbert were known as "The Merchants of Louisville" because they were such important businessmen.

The Bullitt brothers moved to Louisville in 1804.

Thomas married Diane Moore Gwathmey, the daughter of Ann Clark Gwathmey (another Clark sibling). Eventually, the Bullitt brothers would own much of the Louisville waterfront. They also purchased and developed Spring Mill in Mitchell, Ind., and founded Terre Haute, Ind.

There aren't a lot of details on Thomas Bullitt in any of the records I've been able to find. So, I'm working on fleshing out his character as best I can.



Rod with flax and a flax break during the 18th Century Market Fair last fall.

### What are the characteristics of these two men?

Both men are products of their times, as well as members of influential and powerful families. I try to project that spirit and personality as I interact with our guests.

At a Candlelight tour a few years ago when I was John O'Fallon, I was chatting with my "cousin" George Croghan. We talked about how we left Locust Grove for the war (of 1812), and how our lives had changed in the intervening years.

We were delighted when a knowledgeable young University of Louisville history major joined our conversation and kept right up with us. It felt, for those few moments, that we really had become our characters.

That sensation is the reward of all devoted reenactors, and something we all seek with each new event. I guess that's why we keep doing what we do.

## Ann Croghan Jesup To Come Home After 186 Years

It's a story almost too strange to be true. By way of the auction site eBay, a portrait of Ann Heron Croghan Jesup, William and Lucy's elder daughter, is coming back home to Locust Grove. The portrait had been lost for decades.

The portrait was probably painted around the time of Ann's marriage to Thomas Jesup in 1822. They lived in Washington, D.C., with intervals spent back at Locust Grove.

When Ann died in 1846, a grieving Jesup ordered copies of the portrait made by artist Thomas Bird King (King was probably not the original artist, however. We'll have more on

this question in a later issue of *Grove Gazette*). The painting disappeared from view. Until....

In the last week of March 2008, Locust Grove staff member **Tricia Langley**, an antiques aficionado, was working at the front desk when a friend who is an art/antiques dealer, called to alert her to a Croghan family portrait that she'd see on eBay. Tricia rushed to find **Carol Ely**, HLG's executive director, and the two of them, skeptical but hopeful, went onto the eBay site to see the listing.

It looked like the real thing. A skillful but damaged early 19th century portrait of a smiling woman. A woman with

the same nose as Lucy Clark Croghan. A woman with a suggestion of the red hair common to the Clark family. And on the back of the frame was lettered "Ann Heron Croghan Jesup."

It all fit. The dealer (in England!) was reputable. Acquisitions and Collections Committee co-chairs **Roberta Dickson** and **Gwynne Potts** were quickly consulted and they concurred.

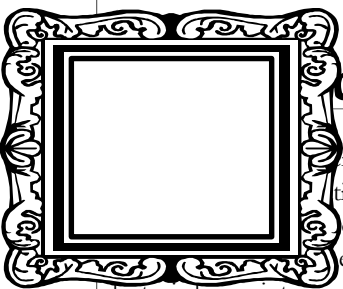
Within 30 minutes of receiving the phone call, Tricia hit the "Buy It Now!" button on eBay, and the portrait was ours.

When contacted, the British dealer said he had found the painting in a barn in Oxfordshire



at an estate sale — damaged but not irreparably. The portrait is being packed for shipping to Kentucky, and then will be sent to a conservation lab for repairs.

In the next *Grove Gazette*, we'll show you images of the portrait, explore the question of who actually painted it, and speculate on just how a prominent Louisville woman ended up in an English barn.



## Receives Major New Grant

ived a tional of our e 1790s' historic house interiors. The foundation, which prefers to

be anonymous, will support research on the original interior design and room uses.

Under the direction of a Locust Grove committee chaired by **Gwynne Potts**, experts in

historic paint analysis, wallpaper, floor coverings, and furnishings will examine and analyze the remaining physical and documentary evidence for the appearance of the house during the era of William and Lucy Croghan.

Based on their findings, the committee will recommend and implement changes in the house's present interiors.

"We strongly suspect that a family that chose wallpaper as fine and bright as the French turquoise paper that we now feature in the large second floor room would not have settled for bare white walls in their other important rooms on the first floor," said Executive Director **Carol Ely**, who will also serve on the committee.

"The chance to have the professional research done, and then to make the physical changes that the research leads to, is very exciting — and will bring us closer to the spirit of the age the Croghans inhabited and shaped."

In recent years, Farmington, Riverside, My Old Kentucky Home, and other local and national sites, have undergone similar re-interpretation and re-installation.

Locust Grove will now have a similar opportunity to examine the assumptions made when the site was restored in the 1960s, bringing new scholarship into the picture. The project starts immediately and is expected to be completed during 2009.

### First Volunteer Fair A Success!



**Diane Statler, volunteer docent and hearth-cooking demonstrator, talks to one of the people who came to our first Volunteer Fair in late March.**

**Visitors to the fair learned about volunteer opportunities — and more than half who attended signed up to be volunteers!**

**If you'd like to share your talents at Locust Grove as a volunteer, call Program Director Mary Beth Williams at (502) 897-9845.**



## 2008 AFTERNOON LECTURE SERIES

The theme of this year's series is "Early Louisville Society." Each lecture will investigate the changing social structures of early Kentucky.

Lectures are held on the first Wednesday of each month, except for January and May. Desserts and coffee are served at 1:00 p.m., with the lecture immediately following. Admission is \$5, or \$3 for Friends of Locust Grove.

### SURVEYING THE OHIO VALLEY

Wednesday, June 4, 1:00 p.m.

Learn more about surveying, the profession of William Croghan and George Rogers Clark. David Ruckman, a member of the Indiana Society of Professional Land Surveyors, will discuss the history of surveying in this region, and explain early surveying equipment and techniques.



Photo: [www.armygeographers.org](http://www.armygeographers.org)

### LOCUST GROVE'S NEW GALLERY

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

This lecture will be part of the opening week events for our new gallery. We'll have a panel discussion based on themes from our new exhibit. Check our website for more details.

### URBAN SLAVERY

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

J. Blaine Hudson, dean of the School of Arts & Sciences at the University of Louisville, will examine urban slavery in early Louisville.

Dr. Hudson is a prominent African American history researcher, writer, and popular speaker. He has authored *Fugitive Slaves and the Underground Railroad in the Kentucky Borderland*, and will soon publish *The Encyclopedia of the Underground Railroad*.

Dean Hudson has chaired the Kentucky African American Heritage Commission since 2000, and has served the commonwealth on many historical, education and civil rights panels. He has received numerous honors for research and public service, including the 2002 Martin Luther King Jr. Dream Award from Louisville Metro Government.



Photo: UofL Website

If you would like to receive updates about Locust Grove's programs and events via e-mail, please send your address to: [wise@locustgrove.org](mailto:wise@locustgrove.org), with "e-mail" as the subject. Locust Grove will keep your e-mail address private.

## GARDENERS' FAIR AND SILENT AUCTION

Friday through Sunday, May 9, 10, 11  
10:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.

Revel in the colorful plants, fragrant herbs, garden tools, flower-themed accessories, handcrafted items, and the hundreds of other creative ideas offered by the 70 local and regional garden suppliers and other vendors coming to this year's Gardeners' Fair. Gardening experts also will be on hand to answer questions and offer advice.



Through 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, you may enter bids on a wide array of items in our Silent Auction. Look for gifts from many of our vendors and other merchants in the area. We'll have antiques, quilts,

handmade items, Kentucky-made goods, sports memorabilia, handcrafted items, collectibles, and much more.

Admission, which includes a tour of Historic Locust Grove, is \$5 for adults; \$3 for children aged 6 to 12; free for children 5 and under. All proceeds from this event support the continuing operation and preservation of this historic property.



## MOTHERS' DAY BRUNCH

Sunday, May 11  
Seatings at 10:00 a.m., Noon,  
and 2:00 p.m.

This delicious brunch catered by the Bristol Café is one of the most popular events at our annual Gardeners' Fair.

*Because of the brunch's popularity and limited space, this event sells out quickly.*

But there may be reservations still available. And we always keep a waiting list. Please call (502) 897-9845 as soon as possible.



Costs are: \$27.50 for adults, \$12 for children from 3-12, and free for children 2 and under.

Paid reservations are required.

## SUMMER CAMPS

*Sign-ups have started and space is limited. Call today to reserve your child's place in history!*

### WOODWORKING CAMP

June 9-13

For ages 11-14 —

9:30 a.m.–11:30 a.m.

For ages 7-10 —

12:30 p.m.–2:30 p.m.

Locust Grove woodworkers will lead campers in learning the basics of woodworking. Campers will learn about types of wood, historic and modern woodworking tools, and they will complete a project to take home. \$75 per camper. Please call (502) 897-9845 to register.



### PIONEER CAMP

July 14-18

9:00 a.m.–12 Noon

For ages 7-10

This exciting camp provides a wonderful sampler of early pioneer life. Students participate in crafts such as weaving, writing with quills, and candlemaking. They take part in activities such as storytelling, historic games, and nature walks. Cost: \$80 per camper. Please call (502) 897-9845 to register.



## SLOW FOOD BLUEGRASS/LOCUST GROVE SUMMER FAMILY PICNIC

Sunday, June 22. 12 Noon–4:30 p.m.

It's the first day of summer! Journey back to a slower time at this new Locust Grove event. Jump off the merry-go-round, collect your scattered kith and kin, and return to a time when food was slow and family was fun.

In conjunction with Slow Food Bluegrass and affiliated farmers, chefs, and other supporters, we'll help you remember a time before quick snacks, fast foods, multi-tasking, and too much busy-ness.

Bring your own picnic or purchase slow foods created by local chefs. Area farmers will be on hand with their bounty, and "slow" craftspeople will be demonstrating their skills. We'll have family-friendly fun to keep you entertained; or you can just sit back and enjoy the peacefulness of slow.

The Slow Food movement is a perfect fit for Locust Grove. What could be slower than hearth cooking? And Slow Craftsmanship? When it takes three-plus years to build a house, that's slow.

Admission for Slow Food Picnic Day: \$5 a carload! Walkers and bikers are free. Admission to the house is at the usual fee.



## SUMMER ANTIQUES MARKET

Sunday, June 29, 10:00 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

This semi-annual Antiques Market features professional dealers from the South and Midwest displaying their wares on the lawn at Historic Locust Grove. In addition to American country antiques, the show features formal furniture, jewelry and silver.

Admission is \$6 for adults, \$3 for children 6-12, free for kids 5 and under, and includes tours of the historic house. Concessions are available. Proceeds support the continued operation and preservation of Historic Locust Grove.



## JANE AUSTEN FESTIVAL

Presented by the Jane Austen Society of North America with Locust Grove

Saturday and Sunday, July 12 and 13  
10:00 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

This festival is dedicated to British author Jane Austen, a contemporary of the Clarks and Croghans. The festival fee is \$6 — which includes a tour of the historic house.

On Saturday and Sunday, we'll offer a Regency Emporium featuring new and antiquarian books, jewelry, patterns, fabrics, and all that's needed to make a Regency dress. We'll also have a Regency Style Show at 11 a.m. on Saturday and at 12 Noon on Sunday.

At 2:00 p.m. each day, **Joan Klingel Ray**, Ph.D., will talk about "Jane Austen for Smarties." Dr. Ray is past president of the Jane Austen Society of North America and author of *Jane Austen for Dummies*. She'll be around to sign her book, which we'll have available for purchase.



On both days of the festival, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., you may experience an elegant Regency-style Afternoon Tea. This lovely tea, prepared by two former tearoom owners, is \$14 per person. You may make reservations at the Front Desk when you arrive, or you may call ahead to reserve a time at (502) 897-9845.

On Sunday evening at 5 p.m., treat yourself to a special concert in Locust Grove's second-floor ballroom. It will feature Jane Austen's favorite music played on our 1806 Broadwood fortepiano. Cost: \$20 per person. Seating is limited, so you may guarantee your seat by calling (502) 897-9845. Or you may buy tickets at the Front Desk until they sell out.



Photo: [www.jasa.net.au](http://www.jasa.net.au)

## Friends of Locust Grove

Enrollment/Renewal – January 1, through April 13, 2008

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 join, 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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### Despite Snow Delay, HLG's Used Book Sale Scores Big



When the doors to Locust Grove's Third Annual Used Book Sale opened to the public on March 15, it was wall-to-wall people. With most books at 50 cents, \$1 or \$2, the bargains couldn't be beaten. Even though we had to delay our sale by a week because of an unusually heavy snow

on the scheduled weekend of March 8th, it didn't dampen enthusiasm. By the time the doors closed on Sunday afternoon, more than \$11,000 had been raised for Locust Grove's educational and restoration projects. Start saving your books now to donate for next year's Used Book Sale!

## Many Thanks To Our Recent Donors!

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.

### Donations & Grants

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Edith S. Bingham  
Dr. & Mrs. Lawrence H. Boram  
Mrs. Temple Bowling  
Katherine & Mark Boyer  
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## Events Bring Enrichment, Delight To Locust Grove Visitors

The last two Chamber Music Concerts of the season featured concerts on the Glass Armonica and a front-porch brass band.

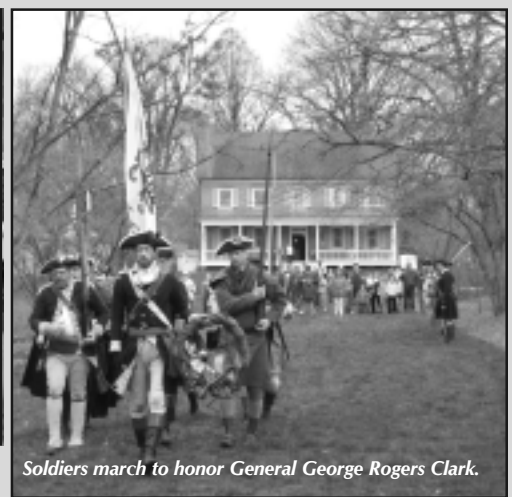
April's chilly 18th Century Thunder let visitors experience what life was like for Revolutionary War soldiers and their families.



Dean Shostak performs on his Glass Armonica.



A civic brass band quartet entertains on the porch.



Soldiers march to honor General George Rogers Clark.