

GROVE GAZETTE

Historic Locust Grove

561 Blankenbaker Lane

Louisville, KY 40207

(502) 897-9845

www.locustgrove.org



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Charlie Dorenkott – Spirit Award Winner

If you've ever enjoyed a homemade pimiento cheese sandwich at the Gardeners' Fair, you have this quarter's Spirit Award Winner to thank.

For more years than most people can remember, **Charlie Dorenkott** has prepared multiple gallons of pimiento cheese spread — by hand — and donated it to HLG's concession stand at the annual Gardeners' Fair.

"That's only one of the many contributions that Charlie has made to Historic Locust Grove," says Visitors Center Manager **Jennifer Jansen**. "His 11 years at Locust Grove have shown what an extraordinary asset Charlie is to me personally in the Visitors Center, and to all of us."

Stop in most any Wednesday morning and you'll find Charlie at the front desk, always with a kind greeting for everyone.

"Charlie arrives for the Wednesday morning shift, with a smile on his face — and cookies in his hand," says Program Director **Mary Beth Williams**. "We all love it!"

Charlie always takes the time to orientate guests to the site, and takes great pride in telling visitors about Locust Grove's new Gallery and its exhibits.

"He's always very positive and insightful," adds Jennifer. "And when we need extra help, Charlie will always say 'Yes' if it's at all possible.

"Not only that, Charlie gives great garden advice and he's



wonderful with the kids when they shop during school tours," Jennifer adds.

Executive Director **Carol Ely** points out that reliable and personable volunteers are essential to the smooth running of Historic Locust Grove. And Charlie is a great example of what makes the best volunteers.

"I love Charlie," she says. "You just feel taken care of, like everything will be all right at the front desk when Charlie's there."

And we're all glad that he is.

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

We've begun!

The process of re-creating the home of William and Lucy Croghan and family, the final home of George Rogers Clark, has finally started.

Based on detailed chemical analysis of samples from the historic home, combined with documentary research, we are now repainting and repapering the House to reflect the period 1809-1822, from the time that George Rogers Clark arrived at Locust Grove to the death of William Croghan.

It will be brighter. It will be different. But it will still be Locust Grove.

As I write this, we've just been introduced to the brilliant verdigris green paint finish that will grace parts of four rooms of the House. We know that in the fall of 1806, William Croghan chose this color — purchasing 7 ½ pounds of verdigris pigment from the downtown Louisville shop of Fitzhugh and Rose.

Now the color has returned to Locust Grove, layered on in a glaze in the room to



HLG Board President Gwynne Potts displayed many of the wallpapers being considered for certain walls in the re-restored House. Gwynne, chair of the Restoration Committee, often holds an information session on the first Saturday of the month for all who are interested in the re-restoration project.

your immediate left as you enter the house, often referred to as the Family Dining Room.

Plasterers are moving through the house, one or two rooms at a time, repairing aging plaster and smoothing the way for a new paint or paper finish.

We know that the plaster was very smoothly laid on originally (not roughly as was done in the 1960s restoration), because our researcher, **Matthew Mosca**, found untouched original plaster inside closets and in the ballroom.

Our painter, **Paul Mewmaw**, is following behind the plasterers, putting on the base and finish coats in the rooms that were painted during the period we are interpreting.

Yes, he will be painting some of the wood that we've been used to seeing in its natural state. But most of the bare wood will remain — which is an unusual feature of this house. The fine fireplace walls of the first floor's dining room and parlor, and the ballroom on the second floor will remain as they are.

We know which rooms were papered (at least, we know that the evidence of wallpaper paste suggests this). The Restoration Committee is considering samples of reproduction paper that suit the era and fit what we know of the Croghans' taste. The wallpapering will follow the plaster and paint.

The wallpaper in the second-floor ballroom will be replaced with a closer reproduction, using more authentic techniques and materials. Alas, there will be a period when the existing paper is taken down but before the new paper arrives.

Later on you'll see new textiles, coverlets, curtains, upholstery, and more.



A painter applies the first coat of paint to create the verdigris finish that will found in four rooms.

In the meantime, it's chaos. But interesting chaos. Electrical work has temporarily exposed some of the House's structure. It's fun to see the the House's "bones" — those amazing hand-hewn thick pieces of lumber upon which the house has been built.

Don't wait until the re-restoration is complete. Take a look now! The plastered rooms show the House as it looked *exactly* at one point in its history — while the Croghans were still considering how to decorate.

Come see. The painted rooms in progress hint at what's to come.

Just overlook the furniture that's been moved into rooms where it does not usually reside, as we displace it in the service of a greater future.

Questions are welcome. Don't mind the dust. It's visible evidence of progress toward an exciting new re-restoration.

Carol Ely

Grove Gazette is published quarterly by Historic Locust Grove, Inc. for members, volunteers and supporters of Historic Locust Grove. © 2009

561 Blankenbaker Lane
Louisville, KY 40207
(502) 897-9845
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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

Connie Guthrie is Peggy Chenoweth

How long have you been interpreting your character?

I have been Peggy Chenoweth at Locust Grove for about five years. But, for the last 15 years, I've presented Peggy during the Historic Middletown Hike. This walk takes visitors to historic spots in the area, including the springhouse where Peggy took refuge after her scalping.

Who was Peggy Chenoweth?

Peggy, a local woman, survived an Indian scalping and went on to have two more children and lived to 80 years old.

She and her family were among the first Louisville families when her husband joined George Rogers Clark's campaign to acquire the Northwest Territory for the United States in 1778. They lived in Louisville for several years until moving to the Middletown area.

In 1789, a band of Shawnees burst into the Chenoweth cabin. As Peggy fled, an Indian shot an arrow into her back. Thinking he'd killed her, he pulled out his arrow and then took out a dull knife and cut away her scalp.

Peggy was conscious throughout the ordeal but uttered no sound. When the Indian left, she made her way to the springhouse. One man escaped and ran five miles to the home of Col. Richard Anderson, who was married to one of the Clark sisters, Elizabeth.

When a group of soldiers arrived at the cabin, they discovered that several children had survived, and found Peggy in the springhouse. They took

her to the Andersons, where Elizabeth nursed her for six months. From then on, Peggy always wore a black cloth cap over her scarred, hairless head.

Peggy had strong connections to the Clarks — Elizabeth Clark Anderson nursed her to health; one of the men coming to help after the Indian raid was William Clark; and Peggy's husband Richard came to Kentucky because of then-Colonel George Rogers Clark.

How did you become involved with costumed interpreting at Locust Grove?

My husband was a docent here for several years before he died. His hero was George Rogers Clark. And so I was quite familiar with Locust Grove.

I also was concerned that Peggy's story was being lost. So I volunteered to tell it here at Locust Grove.

How did you select Peggy Chenoweth?

I think Peggy selected me. With my home being in Middletown, I heard about the Chenoweths and the scalping for many years. Peggy's own story of Indian attacks in her home, her children's deaths, and her own injury make her story a marvelous example of early life in Kentucky.

Describe Peggy and how you portray her.

I show Peggy's tenacity. She often was the solitary leader of a large family of 10 children. She certainly showed stamina. I also try to show her complexity, such as her divided feelings at her daughter's decision to become a



missionary to the Choctaw Indians in Oklahoma in the mid-1800s.

How did you research your character?

An extensive Chenoweth Family website is very useful. Plus, my husband did all that research on the Chenoweths. I've also spent many years portraying Peggy in several venues, which has helped Peggy become a part of me.

Why is costumed interpreting so much fun?

A few years ago, as two boys on the Historic Middletown Hike were leaving the springhouse, one of them turned to his friend and said, "Do you really believe all that stuff?" Well, at least I knew I'd gotten his attention.

I'm frequently asked if I'm a member of the Chenoweth family. That seems to imply that my portrayal has been so vivid that only a member of the family would have put all that energy into it. And that pleases me no end.

Nancy Lee Named 2009 Pilkington Award Winner

One of the most familiar people at Locust Grove is **Nancy Lee**. If it seems like she's always around, it's probably because she is. She has given much time, energy, intellect, money, and heart to Locust Grove.

Nancy is a regular docent on Wednesdays and Sundays, chairs the Education and Interpretation Committee, was a long-time Director, and is now active on the Board of Advisors. If you've attended the Mother's Day Brunch, you've probably been shown to your table by Nancy — always with a gracious smile.

For these and so many more reasons, Nancy Lee has been given the 2009 Audrey Pilkington Lifetime Achievement Award. The award recognizes volunteers who have offered a lifetime of dedication and support to Historic Locust Grove.

"There is no question that Nancy is highly deserving of this award," says long-time Locust Grove volunteer and 2006 Pilkington Award Winner **LaMar Gaston**. "She has always been a strong supporter of Locust Grove — offering to help out wherever and however she can."

A former elementary Social Studies teacher, Nancy became a Locust Grove docent after retiring in 1993. "She immediately set a standard for student interpretations," says **Gwynne Potts**, president of HLG's board and 2007 Pilkington Award Winner. "Nancy is wise, well-traveled, and can't be rattled. And she just loves American history — reading about it, teaching it, soaking it in."

Nancy has served on many of Locust Grove's committees, including Volunteer Steering and the Lewis & Clark Bicentennial Celebration. "I can't remember the last time Locust Grove produced a program without Nancy's presence as a volunteer," adds Gwynne. "She is one of those people whose image is inseparable from that of Locust Grove. And that's a blessing for us all."



Did You Know...?

One thing we've always known about the Croghans and their taste in interior decorating is that they chose very fine French wallpaper for the largest room in the House.

Visitors are familiar with the blue-green, neoclassical, figurative wallpaper in the room we call the Ballroom. The wallpaper is a reproduction based on fragments of the original paper found in the room when a partition was removed during the 1960s' restoration.

The original paper will now be reproduced again using even more authentic materials and techniques, and it will be as magnificent as when it was first put up some 200 years ago.



The wallpaper is from the famous French firm, Reveillon. Inspired by paper he had seen in England, Jean-Baptiste Reveillon began producing fine papers that found favor with the French court in the years before the Revolution. His factory in the St.-Antoine district of Paris employed more than 300 craftsmen in designing, mixing colors, stamping, and hand-painting luxury goods.

However, his connection with the upper classes and accusations that he underpaid his workers made his factory a target by one of the first violent actions of the French Revolution.

In April of 1789, the factory was attacked and burned. Jean-Baptiste fled to England, where some of his designs continued to be produced for a short time.

And now you know!

P.S. William and Lucy Croghan were married on July 14, 1789 — the very day the Bastille fell.

New Volunteer Awards Recognize the Unusual

The Volunteer Steering Committee has created five new awards to recognize those volunteers who have had unusual or unexpected experiences with visitors, or who have performed over and above expectations. Congratulations to the 2009 winners of the five new awards presented at this year's recognition party:

Just Say "Yes" ♦ Lynn Renau

For filling in as docent on many occasions, and when we've been in a pinch, for dropping whatever she was doing and coming in quickly to help out, always with a smile.

Most Unusual Volunteer Activity ♦ Joanne Long

For staying up all night to bake apple pies for our 18th Century Market Fair food booth.

Saves The Day ♦ Tricia Langley

For helping unearth the portrait of Ann Croghan Jesup that had been missing for more than a century before turning up in a barn in England.



Four of the new award winners were on hand at the recognition party. They are (from the left) Evie Graham, Tricia Langley, Bob Pilkington, and Lynn Renau.

Oops ♦ Bob Pilkington

For passing out during a tour. (Fortunately, Bob was given a clean bill of health — and now regards the incident with his characteristic good humor.)

Most Unusual Visitor Experience ♦ Evie Graham

A male visitor during a Candlelight tour enthusiastically told Evie that he has a dress "just like hers." (And Evie never broke character.)

In Remembrance

Locust Grove is remembering **Mae Black**, who died recently. A volunteer for more than 25 years, Mae transitioned from her docent duties to being in charge of the flowers and food for the Wednesday Lecture series. "She was kind, hospitable, gracious, and dedicated to Locust Grove," says HLG Board President **Gwynne Potts**. "She was part of our family, and we miss her."

2009 AFTERNOON LECTURE SERIES

This year's theme is "The Material World: Art, Architecture, and Design in 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.

DRESSING THE NEW REPUBLIC

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

Julienne Foster, formerly the textiles specialist at the Kentucky Historical Society, will discuss the clothing fashions and styles that were popular during the years that the Croghans and Clarks lived at Locust Grove.



FOOD AND DINING IN EARLY KENTUCKY

Wednesday, August 5, 1:00 p.m.



Susan Reigler, regional food writer and former caretaker for Locust Grove, will bring insights about the kinds of foods that people would have eaten in Kentucky during the time of the Clarks and Croghans. You'll learn about where and how the food would have been prepared and the manner in which it would have been served.

HISTORICAL STAFFORDSHIRE CHINA

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

Diane and Jim Statler, owners of Oakridge Antiques in Middletown, are avid collectors of Historical Staffordshire China. They'll focus on dinnerware and tea services depicting important buildings, scenery, and maritime and patriotic scenes of the United States in the 1820s. Produced in England for export to our young nation, this china may well have graced the table at Locust Grove. They'll have several examples on display, as well.



PORTRAITURE AND FINE ARTS IN EARLY KENTUCKY

Wednesday, October 7, 1:00 p.m.

Estill Curtis "Buck" Pennington returns by popular demand to continue his fascinating discussion on 200+ years of portrait artists in Kentucky and the South. Formerly with Archives of American Art and the National Portrait Gallery, Buck has published a new book on Kentucky portraits and artists, *Master Painters of the Bluegrass*.

CHILDREN'S SUMMER ACTIVITIES

PIONEER CAMP (AGES 7-10)

Monday, July 6 – Friday, July 10
9:00 a.m. – 12 noon

There still may be openings for this camp, which provides a wonderful sampler of early pioneer life. Students participate in crafts such as weaving, writing with quills, and hearth cooking. They take part in activities such as storytelling, historic games, and nature walks. Specific activities change each year, so repeat campers are welcome! \$80 per camper. All materials are included. Call (502) 897-9845 for further information.



PAINTED CANVAS CLOTH WORKSHOP (AGES 7-10)

Wednesday, July 29 and Thursday, July 30
10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.



Virginia Tucker leads this workshop where children aged 7–10 will make and decorate a 6 1/2" x 8" painted canvas. They can use historical patterns or create their own design. Cost for this two-day workshop is \$45, with all frames, canvas, paint, and brushes provided. Call (502) 897-9845 to register.

JANE AUSTEN FESTIVAL

Co-sponsored with the Jane Austen Society of North America—Greater Louisville Region

Saturday, July 18, and Sunday, July 19
10:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

During this second annual Jane Austen Festival, you'll experience the early 1800s as Jane Austen in England and the Clarks and Croghans in Locust Grove would have. Shop at the Regency Emporium, participate in a Silent Auction, and watch a fabulous Regency Style Show. Meet and listen to **Margaret Sullivan**, editor of *AustenBlog* and author of *The Jane Austen Handbook*.

Attend a class in period sewing techniques, taught by historic re-enactor **Kathleen Kannik**. Watch with delight as Common Stock provides authentic entertainment, such as Old English Fairytales and shadow puppet shows. Enjoy a four-course Afternoon Tea, which will be served on the hour each day. (*Reservations required.*)

Admission, which includes a walk-through tour of Historic Locust Grove, is \$6. The Afternoon Tea is \$25 — which includes admission and requires a reservation. For reservations, please email **Bonny Wise** at wises4@insightbb.com, or call (502) 897-9845. More information is available at www.jasnalouisville.com.



At last year's Jane Austen Festival, Afternoon Tea was a delightful success.

Historic Locust Grove
CALENDAR

ANTIQUES APPRAISAL DAY

Sunday, September 20, 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
(Registration begins at 12:30 p.m.)



Several nationally known antiques dealers and appraisers will offer appraisals of antique and vintage items that you bring in. (Please, no large furniture). Fees are \$10 per item or three items for \$25 (limit six items). All fees go toward support of Historic Locust



Grove's education and preservation programs. Space is limited so please come early. And please watch our website: www.locustgrove.org for further details.

FALL ANTIQUES MARKET

Sunday, September 27
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, textiles, and silver.

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



Friends of Locust Grove

Enrollment/Renewal from March 8, through May 31, 2009

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, or call us at (502) 897-9845 for further information and details.

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Yearly memberships in the Friends of Locust Grove are available in three categories:

Individual — \$35
Family — \$50
Student — \$15

For membership information and details, please call us at (502) 897-9845.

Remember:
"Friends of Locust Grove" always receive a 10% discount at the Museum Store!

In The Garden

Sarah Sutherland, Gardener

In the cutting beds near the vegetables, I've planted a bulb bed in honor of the late volunteer **Barb Runquist**, the self-described "wimpy weeder," — but actually a gardener extraordinaire.

Many a hot day, Barb would sit under the grape arbor taking a break, sipping water, and asking, "Did my hat totally flatten my hair?" I never admitted that it had.

The bed is near the grape arbor so that Barb, in spirit, can continue her break and enjoy a seasonal parade of historically accurate color and texture.

Among the blooms are Byzantine gladiolus, Martagon lilies, winter aconite, Pheasant's Eye Narcissus, a true Roman hyacinth, Clausinia tulip, and further down the bed, Canna Indica, Lemon lily, Dahlia atropurpurea, and Mexican Single Tuberose.

The bed may look a bit thin now; but most of these bulbs spread and

propagate, so in a few years it will be lovely. Several bulbs had sold out, so look for more additions. If you'd like to help, a \$20 donation would buy a lovely rare bulb or two.

And, as always, you're welcome to join me for some therapeutic weed pulling! Good for body and soul!

P.S. Yes. I *do* worry about a squirrel having a \$250 lunch. To foil the little devils, I put an underlayer of bird netting covered by mulch. The squirrels tangle up their paws trying to thief a bulb and usually give up.



HLG Visits Historic Nashville Houses

In mid-May, 28 docents, volunteers, staffers, and Friends of Locust Grove traveled to Nashville, Tenn., for two days filled with history. First stop was Andrew Jackson's last home, The Hermitage — where he lived after returning from Washington in 1837 until his death in 1845. That evening, the group was treated to dinner and a personalized evening tour of Belmont Mansion, where we learned about its incredibly clever and strong-willed mistress, Adelia Acklen.

The next day found us at Travellers Rest, built a few years after Locust Grove. Before returning to Louisville, we lunched at a delightful restaurant that's a part of Belle Meade plantation, and toured the home which played an important role in the Thoroughbred industry in the late 1800s.



This first Hermitage farmhouse, originally with two stories, was converted to slave quarters after the mansion (pictured below) was completed in 1821.



HLG trip participants stand in front of historic Belmont Mansion before enjoying a private dinner in the House, followed by a personalized tour.



Andrew Jackson's home, The Hermitage, as seen from one of its gardens.



The tomb of President Andrew Jackson.



Belle Meade, built in 1853, was a highly successful Thoroughbred breeding farm for many years.



Travellers Rest, begun in 1799, has many additions in back.

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HLG Manager's Play is a Success



Surrounded by the actors who brought her words to life at Actor's Theatre of Louisville is local playwright, historian, and HLG's Weekend Manager Rita Jones (second from left). Her play, "Voice of the Fugitive," tells the story of two slaves who fall in love but are separated — with only one ever finding freedom. That one was Henry Bibb, born into slavery in about 1813 in Oldham County, Ky. He later escaped north, eventually settling in Canada. He gained fame as a popular anti-slavery speaker and started the first black newspaper in Canada.

"It's a true story, and I've used Henry Bibb's words throughout the script," Rita says. Bibb returned to Kentucky several times for his wife and daughter, but was unsuccessful in bringing them to freedom. Rita's play, performed under the auspices of Oldham County History Center, was sold out for all three shows.