

# LIBERTY HALL

## HISTORIC SITE



### March News & Events



March is **Women's History Month**, and we're honoring the women who lived at Liberty Hall and the Orlando Brown House. Most of them were not famous! Margaretta Brown (above center) was known locally for her involvement in the Sunday School of Frankfort's first Presbyterian Church. Her great-great-granddaughter, Margaret Wise Brown (top left corner), wrote the children's classics *Goodnight Moon* and *The Runaway Bunny*.

In 1908 Margaretta Brown Barret (second to bottom on right) joined the National Society of Colonial Dames of America (NSCDA) and as a Vice Regent of the Mt. Vernon Ladies' Association spoke at women's clubs to raise awareness of George Washington's home. Also a Dame and Mt. Vernon Vice Regent, Mary

"Mame" Mason Scott (top right corner) started the process of making Liberty Hall into a museum. Her cousin Annie Hord Brown left the Orlando Brown House to the NSCDA in the Commonwealth of Kentucky when she died in 1955.

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## History & Collections

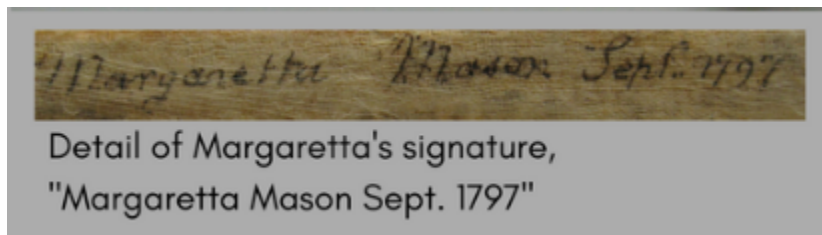


Fan, ivory/painted vellum, 1797  
Owned by Margaretta Mason Brown  
*Liberty Hall Historic Site Collections*

### Are you a fan?

. . . of this late 18th century fan once owned by Margaretta Mason Brown? A fashionable upper-class woman of this period would carry a folding fan such as this one. A high-quality, luxury item, this fan would have demonstrated wealth and status. Margaretta owned this fan prior to her marriage to John Brown in 1799. It is

signed by her and dated 1797.



Detail of Margaretta's signature,  
"Margaretta Mason Sept. 1797"



Detail of poplar ironing board covered with  
layers of fabric, ca. 1840  
*Liberty Hall Historic Site Collections*

### Fanny's work?

By 1810 the Brown household included nine enslaved women and men. At least two of the women—both named Fanny—worked in the laundry. The long process of laundering clothing and household linens ended with ironing. This cloth-covered board is thought to be an early ironing board that was propped between two chairs. Historian Rabbit Goody believes

some of the fabric dates to 1840.

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## Programs & Events



# Women's History for Girl Scouts at Liberty Hall

On March 24, Junior Girl Scouts will learn about the women of Liberty Hall as they earn the "Playing the Past" patch. Scouts will be assigned a role--Margaretta or Euphemia Brown or enslaved worker Hannah Stepney or her daughter Mary--and explore their daily lives through hands-on activities.

Scouts will practice sewing skills, play period games, and work on a journal about their character as they tour the house. The event culminates in a tea party. LHHS is partnering with the Girl Scout Council of Kentucky's Wilderness Road on this event, and troops can sign up by contacting the Council at (800)-475-2621.



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## Did You Know?

Women have grown daffodils at  
Liberty Hall for a long time!

According to some accounts, Mary Yoder, the second wife of Mason Brown, planted daffodils from her childhood home at Liberty Hall. Her daughter, Mary Yoder Brown Scott, assembled a journal of



garden advice that included an entry on planting narcissus. A diagram of the Liberty Hall gardens based on the childhood memories of Mary Mason Scott includes "naturalized bulbs" on the river bank.

Today the LHHS gardens include several varieties of narcissus (also called daffodils and jonquils) and March is the month to see them--weather permitting! To learn

more about the gardens, visit: [History of the LHHS garden](#).

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## March/ April Calendar

**Thursday, March 15** - Liberty Hall opens for public tours - 1:30 p.m.

**Saturday, March 24** - Girl Scout badge workshop, "Playing the Past"

**Saturday, April 21** - Bourbon & Browns - 6 p.m.



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## Find Out More

To get more information on programs, events, or Liberty Hall Historic Site, please visit our website at [www.libertyhall.org](http://www.libertyhall.org), or click on a social media icon below.



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