

LHHS is a learning center that engages the public in exploring the history, politics, social, and cultural life of early Kentucky through the homes, gardens, documents, and artifacts of Senator John Brown and his family.

2018-2019 At a Glance

Fiscal Year Ending March 31, 2019



\$59,871
event cash sponsorships made by 77 individuals and/or companies



1050
attendees of free community events, Old-Fashioned 4th of July and Ghosts in the Garden



664
children and adults who attended school, public family, and scout programs



135
flower, shrub, and tree species in the gardens



8%
increase in website traffic over the previous year
Google Analytics



5%
increase in Bourbon & Browns attendance over 2017



1
new volunteer team, the garden brigade



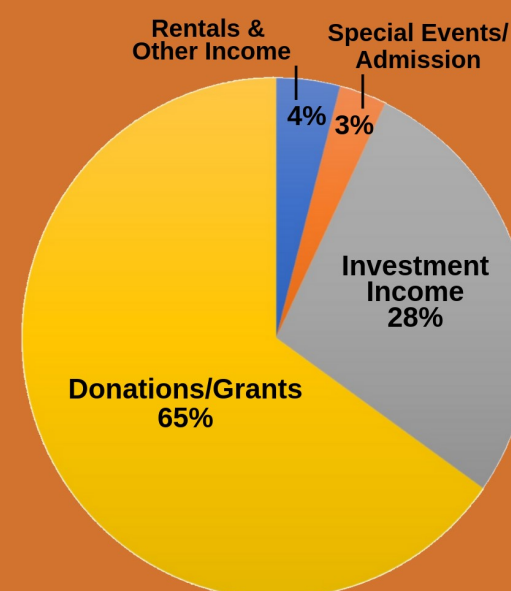
"This is a must see attraction in Frankfort. . . . Gives a great perspective on early Kentucky and United States history and the important people who lived then. . . ."

-Barb, Liberty Hall Tourist

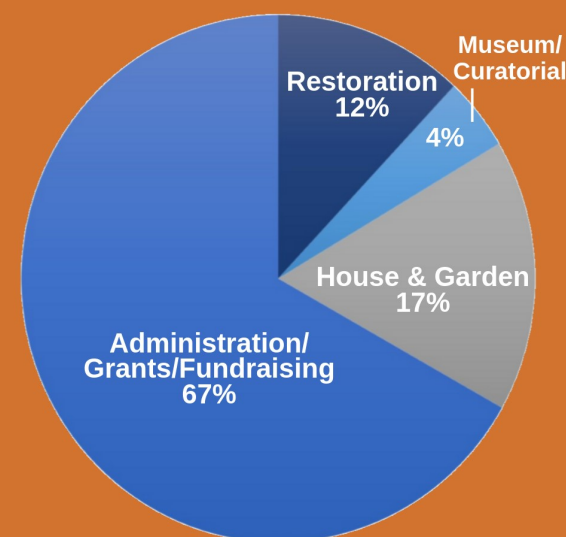
Old-Fashioned 4th of July, 2018
Photograph by Sallie Lanham

At Liberty... To explore, discover, and learn

Revenues



Expenses



LHHS receives no operating support from state or local government. Income and expense amounts are based on a 10-month budget. Investment income includes the amount drawn from invested funds and unrealized gains and losses. LHHS does not use a direct cost accounting method; therefore, administrative expenses are not distributed across mission-related programs.

Slavery and the Liberty Hall Kitchen

Until recently, guided tours of Liberty Hall began in the formal parlor, where John and Margaretta Brown entertained guests. To tell a more inclusive story, we now take a different path. Tour guides introduce the Stepneys, an African American family the Browns enslaved, along with the Browns, then head to the kitchen and laundry.



The kitchen exhibit opened in March 2019, and developing it changed our approach to interpreting the slaves' daily lives. While we still explain open-hearth cooking, we also talk about the enslaved cook—likely Hannah Stepney—watching her youngest children and teaching older ones kitchen tasks as she prepared meals.

Using Brown family letters, genealogical resources, and court records, we have also learned about the lives of Stepney family members after they gained their freedom. Selim was a steward on a steamboat. Joseph worked at a girls' school in South Frankfort. Edwin joined the Union Army.



Although still part of the guided tour, the kitchen now includes a reading rail, a display case, and interactive elements that allow visitors to choose the material that interests them. This exhibit format is part of an effort to diversify the learning experience at Liberty Hall Historic Site. Its content expands the stories we share.



4.6 out of 5 stars across all social media reviews!