



## What Cheer Day Visitor Guide

### *1. What will I experience?*

A day in the life of the Brown family, their visiting friends and household staff in 1800. In the pop-up History Lab on the first floor, you can experience the 18<sup>th</sup> century through touch and smell and ask questions of our expert scholars.

### *2. Who will I meet?*

You will meet costumed interpreters who are playing the roles of people who lived in and visited this house in 1800. The two hot topics of the day are: 1.) the morality of the slave trade, which John Brown supported and his brother Moses condemned and 2.) the fact that John's youngest daughter Alice gave birth to a child only one day after she was married.

### *3. What should I talk about?*

Remember that anyone dressed in clothing from 1800 is playing a person who lived during that time, and they will not know anything about electricity, phones, or the internet! The role players use both documented facts known about their particular character and general information about the time period to answer your questions. You'll discover that there are at least two sides to every story.

Need some ice breakers? Here are some questions that you might ask the interpreters:

- How were you educated? Do you think women should be educated?
- How do you spend your day?
- Do you think the slave trade is immoral?
- What was your reaction when you found out that Alice was pregnant?

#### ***4. Who are the people wearing name tags, and what can I ask them?***

These are RIHS staff and volunteers who will be stationed throughout the house. Want to know what happened to the Browns after 1800? Want to know where the restrooms are? Ask someone with a nametag, and they'll be happy to help.

#### ***5. What is the pop-up History Lab?***

In the Washington Wallpaper room on the first floor of the house is a pop-up History Lab. In the History Lab, you'll meet experts who can answer questions about slavery and women's roles after the Revolutionary War. You'll also be able to experience history through touch and smell. Ever wonder what an 18<sup>th</sup>-century fish market smelled like? You'll never forget it!

#### ***6. Did John Brown own slaves?***

John Brown participated in the slave trade, and we have documentation indicating that he also owned slaves. We do not know whether slaves lived in this house, but we are continuing to conduct research in this area.

#### ***7. What can I touch?***

If an interpreter asks you to hold something, feel free to hold it. You can also touch any of the items on the table in the History Lab. In fact, we encourage it! But we ask you to refrain from touching any of the items in the house, as they are museum collection items and are fragile.

Please note: The views expressed by the role-players in character are not necessarily the views of the role players themselves or of the RIHS.