



Liberty Hall Jack-o-lantern

Brown family members living in Liberty Hall in the early 1800s didn't carve pumpkins. They ate them! John Brown wrote down a recipe for drying pumpkin slices. Margareta Brown's French cookbook included a recipe for cooking pumpkin slices in sugar syrup.

The custom of carving jack-o-lanterns probably started in Ireland and came to the U.S. with Irish immigrants. In recent years pumpkin carving has become an art. LHHS marketing specialist Jerrica Zuniga designed a pumpkin stencil featuring Liberty Hall and its famous Gray Lady ghost. Try it!

Supplies and equipment

- Large pumpkin
- Carving kit (such as Pumpkin Masters Collection, available at Walmart)
- Pumpkin scoop or long-handled spoon
- Large bowl
- Liberty Hall stencils (pages 4 and 5)
- Scotch tape
- Plastic push pins
- Scissors
- Tea candle or small flashlight

Instructions



1. Using the large saw, cut an open triangle into the top of your pumpkin on the side opposite of where you want to carve your design.
2. Place your saw at a 45-degree angle and carve a circle around the stem, connecting the ends to the open triangle.



3. Use the pumpkin scoop or long-handled spoon to remove all the seeds and flesh inside the pumpkin and place in the bowl.
4. Cover the front side of the stencil with tape to help waterproof it.



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5. Tape the stencil to your pumpkin with a focus on the outer area being the most precise. Any folded areas should be on the inner areas of the stencil (e.g., the door and lower inner windows) or areas you can eyeball later (e.g., the fold on the upper half-moon area).



6. Using the plastic push pins press through the stencil into your pumpkin to create a dotted outline of the stencil. DO NOT outline any folded areas.
7. Remove the stencil and cut out the pieces that were folded—in this case, the door and two lower inner windows.



8. Tape the remaining stencil back on the pumpkin. Repeat Step 6 and remove.
9. Using your stencil for reference, eyeball the outline for any areas that need to be connected from folds.



10. Cut out all small black areas of the stencil using the small saw. Start with the innermost pieces and work your way out. Large pieces should be cut after the rest of the pumpkin is carved to help with support.
11. Use the shaving tool to carve out all gray areas of the stencil. Shave about a half inch to an inch into the pumpkin (more to let more light show).



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12. Use the poker tool for small gray areas, such as the eyes and mouth of the ghost.
13. Cut out the large black areas using the large saw.



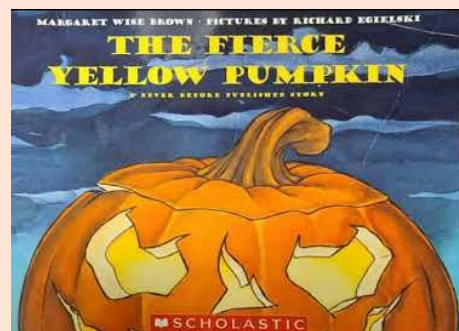
14. Place a tea candle or small flashlight in your pumpkin and watch your pumpkin glow!

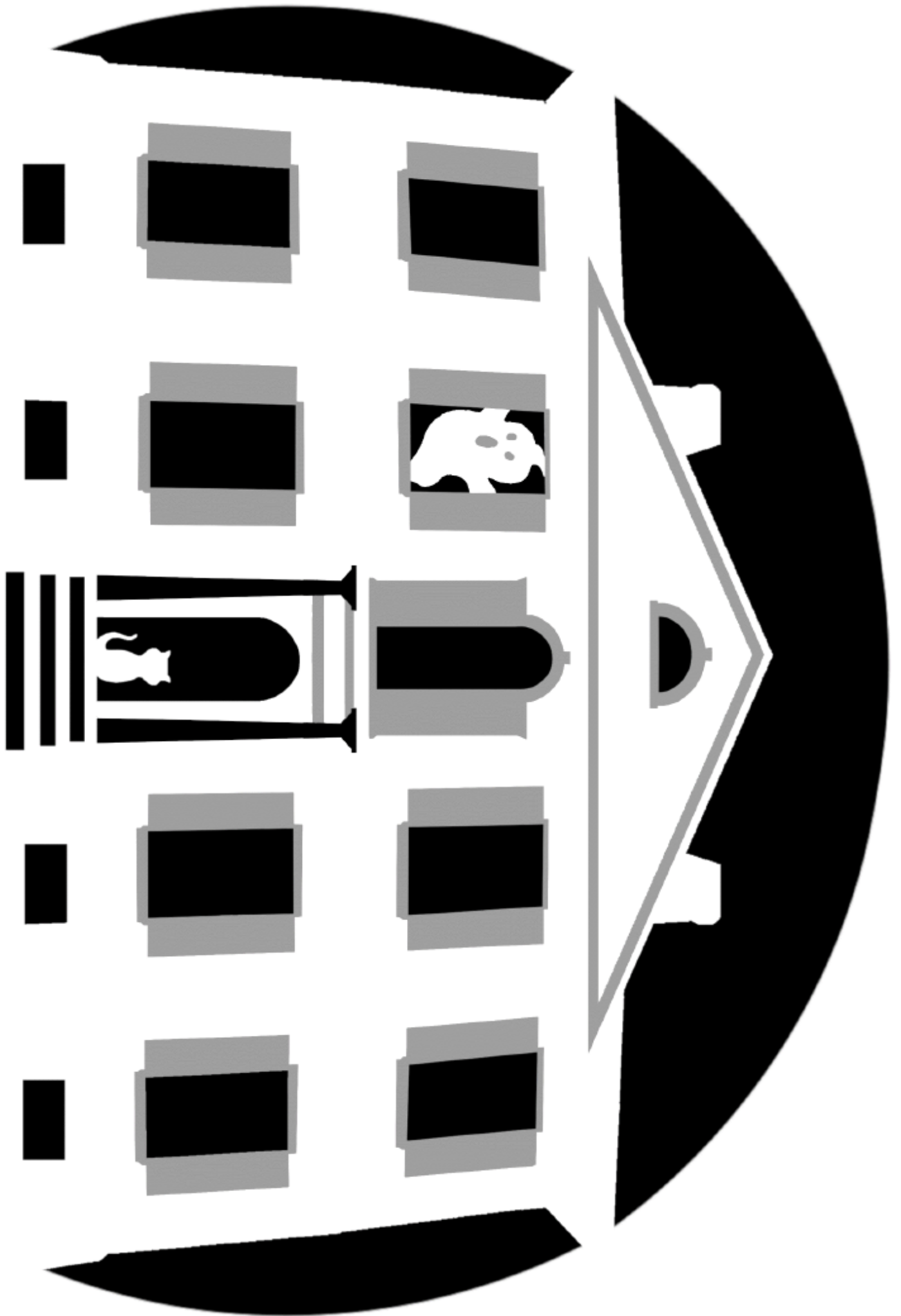


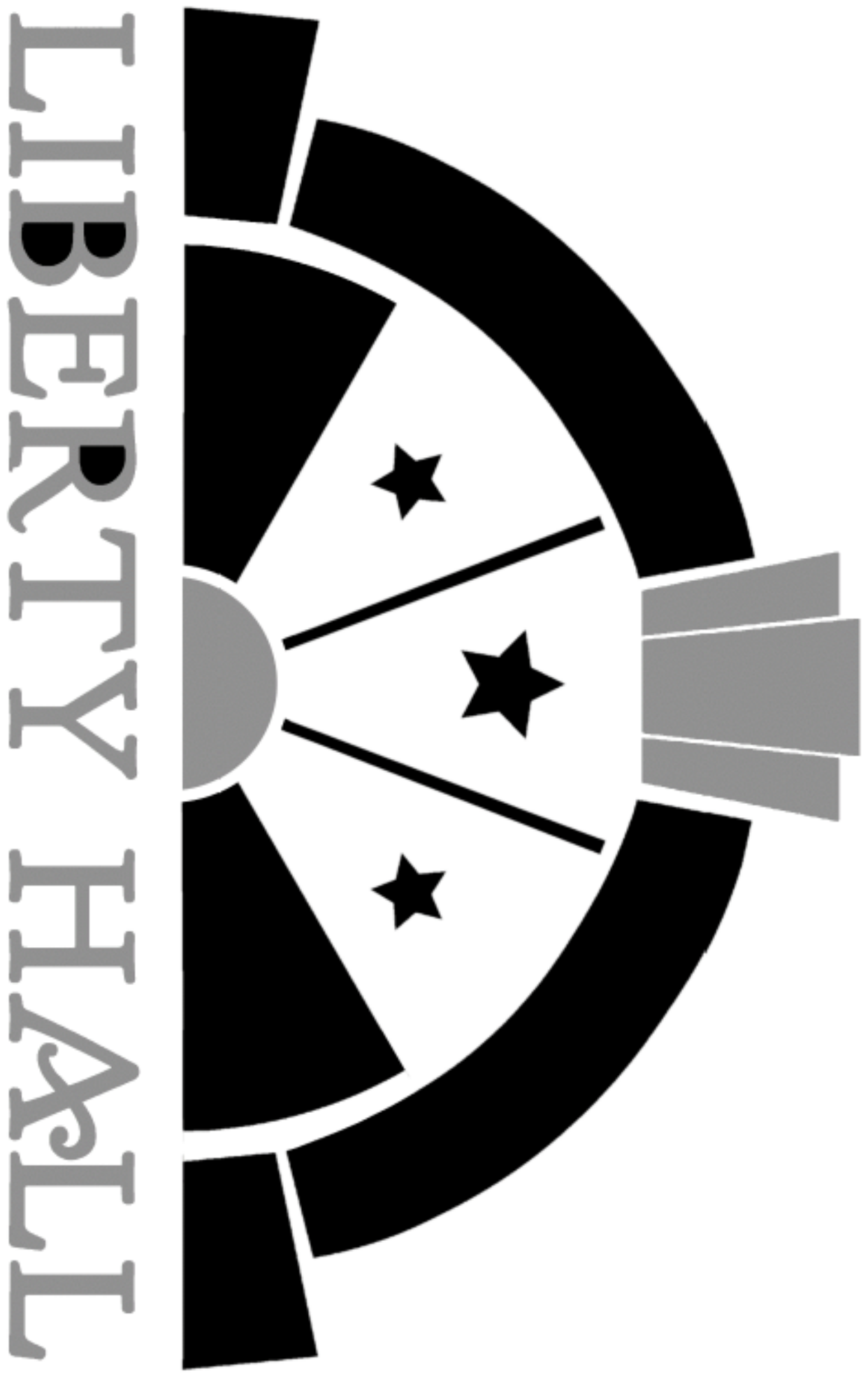
Thanks to Buckmeadow Farms in Lawrenceburg, Kentucky, for donating the pumpkins for this project. Learn more at <https://www.buckmeadowfarms.com/>

Did you know?

Margaret Wise Brown, the great-great granddaughter of John and Margaretta Brown, wrote a book for children about a jack-o-lantern: *The Fierce Yellow Pumpkin*.







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