



WEDDING GOWN ADDED TO LIBERTY HALL - The wedding gown of Mary Lily Kenan has been restored and returned to Liberty Hall in Kenansville. Mary Lily Kenan and Henry Flagler married in Liberty Hall during 1901. Restorations of New York City restored the dress under the supervision of the company president, Helene Van Rosenstiel. More than two years and over 700 hours were spent researching and reconstructing the gown. Pictured above, Helene Von Rosenstiel and the restored wedding gown of Mary Lily Kenan at Liberty Hall.

Kentucky, a close personal friend of the Kenan family. Mary Lily was given in marriage by her father, William Rand Kenan and Louise Clisby Wise, her niece, was her only attendant. Miss Wise later wore the same gown for her wedding to Lawrence Lewis in 1916.

Soon after the wedding, the couple boarded Flagler's private train car at Magnolia and sped away to New York and honeymooned at Mr. Flagler's summer estate on Long Island. Flagler's gift to his new bride was a superb strand of large oriental pearls and Whitehall, a winter home in Palm Beach, Florida, which was completed about one year after their marriage. Today Whitehall is open to the public as The Henry Morrison Flagler Museum.

The wedding gown and veil will be displayed in the same room Mary Lily dressed for her wedding day. Liberty Hall Restoration is open Tuesday through Sunday. For more information, call (919) 296-0522.

A Clean Fight Against Poison Ivy

An easy solution to prevent a poison ivy rash is to stay away from the plant completely. But the problem is that poison ivy can grow almost everywhere and a rash can occur any time of the year if one is exposed to the irritating oil from the plants. Poison oak and sumac also contain the same ingredient. Touching the plant is not the only way a rash can develop. The oil can be on the fur of a dog, garden tools or play toys. To avoid a troublesome rash when walking through the woods, don't let your hands touch anything. Wear a long-sleeved shirt, long pants and boots. Also, use gloves when working in a garden. Undress as soon as you come inside and wash the clothes immediately. Clean boots or shoes with an all-purpose cleaning product or alcohol. Then take a shower. The sooner you wash an area that has been exposed to poison ivy, the better. The first few hours, after contact, poison ivy oil can be washed off skin with soap and water. But if you wait too long, the oil will become locked within the skin and cause mischief.

Flagler Wedding Gown Returns Home To Kenansville

On August 24, 1901, Mary Lily Kenan married Henry Morrison Flagler at Liberty Hall in the most glittering occasion to ever happen in Duplin County. The wedding gown that Mary Lily chose for the occasion has been returned after extensive restoration to be on permanent display.

The delicate gown of white tulle and fine Brussels lace over white taffeta was trimmed with point applique and a matching veil of the same material was adorned with orange blossoms. Mrs. James L. Wiley, granddaughter of the late Jessie Kenan Wise of Wilmington and the last of three members of the Kenan family to have worn the original wedding dress, put the gown and veil on display at the Henry Morrison Flagler Museum in Palm Beach, Florida, the former winter home of the Flaglers. Mrs. Wiley later gave the original gown to the Liberty Hall Restoration.

Helene Von Rosenstiel, president of Restorations of New York City, and one of the country's leading experts in restoration of rare textiles and fabrics, has spent almost two years in researching and over seven hundred man hours in restoring the gown and veil.

The Kenan-Flagler wedding received national attention at the time due to the wealth and social prominence of Mr. Flagler. For the event Liberty Hall had been completely renovated and painted during that summer and filled with fresh-cut flowers and ferns. Only intimate friends along with

family members attended the elaborate ceremony. Mr. Flagler and his party arrived by private train from Wilmington to Magnolia. There the party, including a fifteen-piece orchestra, were transported by private coaches to Kenansville. The ceremony was conducted by the Reverend Peyton Hodge of

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