

K John Brown (1800-1859) Collection, 1855-1904
0218 0.02 cubic feet

This collection is available at [The State Historical Society of Missouri-Research Center, Kansas City](http://www.shsofmo-kc@umsystem.edu). If you would like more information, please contact us at shsofmo-kc@umsystem.edu.

INTRODUCTION

The collection contains photocopies of letters written from Kansas Territory by John Brown and his son to Orson Day of White Hall, New York. The collection also includes copies of newspaper accounts of Brown's action at Harper's Ferry and a reprint of an anti-Brown article.

DONOR INFORMATION

The collection was part of a transfer from the General Library of the University of Missouri-Kansas City on 10/24/1980 (KA0054). The collection is believed to have been collected by Robert M. Snyder, Jr. and sold to the University in the mid-1940s.

COPYRIGHT AND RESTRICTIONS

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BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

The abolitionist John Brown was born May 9, 1800, at Torrington, Connecticut. Brown moved to Kansas in 1855 and quickly assumed the leadership of the local militia. After the sack of Lawrence, Kansas, in May 1856, in which a number of buildings were looted and burned, Brown determined to retaliate against the pro-slavery forces. On the night of May 24, 1856, he led a band of six men who captured and killed five men. This incident was followed by other actions contributing to the ongoing guerrilla warfare along the Kansas-Missouri border.

Brown eventually conceived a plan to establish a free state in the South in which escaping slaves could find refuge. This led to Brown's attack upon the United States Arsenal at Harper's Ferry, Virginia, where he was captured. John Brown was tried for treason and hanged on December 2, 1859.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection contains photocopies of three letters written by John Brown and his son from Brown's Station, Kansas Territory, to Orson Day of White Hall, New York. Day may have been related to Brown's wife, Mary Anne Day. Brown, who "just returned from the Kansas War," details his concerns for the Territory and gives travel instructions to Day who apparently planned to move his family to Kansas in the near future.

The collection also includes a typescript copies of various newspaper accounts of Brown's action at Harper's Ferry and a reprint of an anti-Brown article from the *Rockford*

Morning Star, written in 1904 by G. W. Brown, M. D., about the “massacre” performed by John Brown and his men on the night of May 24, 1856 near Pottawatomie Creek in Franklin County, Kansas.

PREFERRED CITATION

Specific item; box number; folder number; *John Brown (1800-1859) Collection (K0218)*; The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Kansas City [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-KC].

FOLDER LIST

- f. 1 Letters written by John Brown, 1855-1856 (photocopies)
- f. 2 Articles about John Brown, 1859-1904

LOCATION NOTE

The collection is stored offsite (062870) and will need to be retrieved before viewing.

SUBJECT TERMS

Harpers Ferry (W. Va.) – History – John Brown’s Raid, 1859
Kansas – History – 1854-1861
Snyder Collection of Americana