



John Brown Collection (K0218)

Collection Number: K0218

Collection Title: John Brown Collection

Dates: 1855-1904

Creator: Brown, John, 1800-1859

Abstract: The collection contains photocopies of letters written by John Brown and his son, Owen Brown, while they were in the Kansas Territory, 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.

Collection Size: 0.01 cubic foot
(2 folders)

Language: Collection materials are in English.

Repository: The State Historical Society of Missouri

Restrictions on Access: Collection is open for research. This collection is available at [The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Kansas City](#). If you would like more information, please contact us at kansascity@shsmo.org. Collections may be viewed at any research center.

Restrictions on Use: The Donor has given, assigned, and transferred to the University all copyrights, and associated rights the Donor may possess in the materials.

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

Donor Information: The papers were transferred to the University of Missouri by the University of Missouri-Kansas City, General Library on October 24, 1980 (Accession No. KA0054).

Related Materials: Additional materials related to the John Brown Collection can be found in the following collections:

John Brown Papers (MS 1245-MS 1247)
The Kansas Historical Society

Processed by: Processed by State Historical Society of Missouri Staff in October 2015. Finding aid format and index terms updated by Mimi Loran, January 2018.

Historical Note:

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 and anti-slavery movement. 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.

Arrangement:

The collection has been arranged into two folders and the items in the folders have been arranged chronologically.

Scope and Content Note:

The collection contains photocopies of letters along with newspaper article reproductions. Brown and his son wrote the letters, to Orson Day of White Hall, New York detailing the political climate of the Kansas Territory, and providing travel instructions. In addition, there are typescript copies of various newspaper articles detailing the events at Harper's Ferry, and Brown's actions. Lastly, there is a reprint of an anti-Brown article from the *Rockford Morning Star*.

Container List:

- f. 1 John Brown Correspondence, 1855-1856
- f. 2 Articles, 1859-1904

Index:

Index Terms	Folder
Abolitionists	1-2
Antislavery movements--United States	1-2
Harpers Ferry (W. Va.)--History--John Brown's Raid, 1859	2
Kansas --History--1854-1861	1-2