



Life and Times of John Brown

1800	Born in Torrington, CT, on May 9.
1805	Brown family migrates to Ohio.
1808	Brown's mother, Ruth Mills Brown, dies.
1819	Attends seminary school in Connecticut.
1819-25	Works as a tanner in Ohio.
1820	The Missouri Compromise prevents a political crisis between North and South on the issue of slavery.
1821	Marries Dianthe Lusk on June 21.
1825-35	Owens and operates a tannery in Richmond Township, PA.
1831	Abolitionist William Lloyd Garrison calls for the immediate emancipation of slaves. Nat Turner leads a slave insurrection in Virginia.
1832	Dianthe Lusk Brown dies on August 10.
1833	Marries Mary Ann Day on July 11.
1835-40	Speculates in land near Hudson, OH.
1837	Suffers heavy financial losses in the Panic of 1837. A mob murders abolitionist editor Elijah Lovejoy and Brown dedicates his life to oppose slavery.
1841	Begins sheep farming.
1842	Applies for bankruptcy.
1843	In one month four of his children die of dysentery.
1847	Reveals to Frederick Douglass his plan to free the slaves.
1849	Travels to Europe to sell wool. Moves to a farm at North Elba, NY.
1850	Fugitive Slave Act increases power of slave owners to pursue runaways.
1851	Founds the black abolitionist "League of Gileadites" to resist the Fugitive Slave Act by force.
1851-54	Brown's wool business fails.
1852	Harriett Beecher Stowe publishes <u>Uncle Tom's Cabin</u> .
1854	The Kansas-Nebraska Act enrages abolitionists by opening the western territories to slavery. Five of Brown's sons move to Kansas.
1855	Attends convention of Radical Abolition Party at Syracuse, NY. Joins sons in Kansas. Helps defend Lawrence, KS, against pro-slavery forces.



1856	Leads group to execute five pro-slavery settlers after six anti-slavery settlers are murdered and Senator Sumner is beaten in Washington.
1857	Gains financial support from six northern abolitionists. Begins stock-piling weapons for a campaign in the southern Appalachians. Supreme Court Justice Roger Taney states in the Dred Scott decision, "A colored man has no rights which a white man is bound to respect."
1858	Attends the Chatham Convention in Canada and receives support for a "Provisional Constitution" of the United States to govern a new free state. Leads a raid into Missouri and frees 11 slaves.
1859	
3/7	The U.S. Supreme Court upholds the Fugitive Slave Act.
7/3	Brown arrives in Harpers Ferry.
10/16	Begins raid at Harpers Ferry.
10/18	Captured in the armory fire engine house.
10/27	Trial begins.
10/31	Convicted of murder, conspiracy and treason.
12/2	Executed at Charles Town, VA.
12/8	Buried on the family farm in North Elba, NY.

To learn more about John Brown visit our web site at: www.nps.gov/hafe