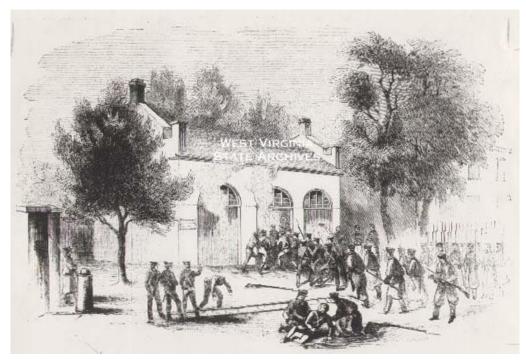


### ON THIS DAY IN WEST VIRGINIA HISTORY October 18



Storming of the armory engine-house at Harpers Ferry

On the morning of October 18, 1859, United States Marines commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Robert E. Lee stormed the armory engine-house at Harpers Ferry, capturing John Brown and members of his raiding party who had barricaded themselves in the building.

#### <u>CSO:</u> SS.8.22, ELA.8.1

#### Investigate the Document: (Boyd Blynn Stutler Collection Ms78-1)

- 1. What charges does John Brown explain he has been found guilty of in the letter to his wife?
- 2. Does John Brown feel guilty for his actions at Harper's Ferry?
- 3. In John Brown's postscript, he states that he has learned of his sentence; how was his sentence to be carried out? On what day?

**Think Critically:** How did John Brown's Raid at Harpers Ferry further intensify sectional tensions prior the Civil War? What was the goal of the raid?

# WV A&H

### West Virginia Archives and History

Property of West Virginia State Archives defferson to Churlestown, ba, 31, Oct. 1859. y Dear Wafe, I Children every one I suppose you have learned before this by the newspapers that I to weeks ago today we were fighting for our lives that the A Harpersferry: that deering the fight Watson was montally wounded; Oliver Killed, Mm Thompson killed, & Doughin slightly wounded. That on the following day I was taken prisoner immedi - ately after which I received several Sabre with in my head ; + Bayonet stabs in my body. As nearly as I can learn Watson died of his wound on Wednesday the 2" or on Thursday the 3 day ofter I was taken. dauthin was killed when Twas taken I anderson I suppose also. I have since been tried, I found qui Ty of Ireason, te; and of murden in the first degree I have not yet received my sentence. No others of the company with whom you were acquainted were so for as I can learn either Killed or taken. Under all These terible calomities; I feel quite cheerful in the afrurance that Soch neight; I will overhule all for his glory; the best possible good. I feel not counies of quilt in the matter: nor even mostipy -cation on account of my imprisonment; + irons; + I feel perfectly afreezed that very soon no member of my family in feel any possible disposetion to blush on my account already dear friends at a distance with kindest Bympathy are cheering me with the afresonce that posterity at least: will do me justice. I shall commend you all together with my beloved, but beseaved doughters in low to their sym pathies which I have no doubt will soon reach you. I also commend you all to him whose mercy endureth for forever: to the God of my fathers whose I am; t whom I enve He will never leave you not forsake you unless you forske tim. Finally my dearly beloved be of good comfort. Be sure

## WV A&H

## West Virginia Archives and History

to remember to follow my advice + my estastifile too: it has been consistent with the holy religion of descer Christ in which I remain a most firm, I humble believer. More forget The foor nor think any thing you bestow on them to be lost, to you even though they may be as black as Eledmetch the Ethiopion elinch who somed for devenuch in the fit of the dungeon; or as black at the one to whom Whillip preached Christ. Be sure to intertain thought for Remember them there that one in bonds as There by dome have bound with them. Som in the charge of a jailor like the one who took sharge of Paul & Tilas; I you may rest afsured that both Kind hearth I kind faces are more or less about me; whilst thousands one thissting for my blood, There light applications which are but for a moment shall work out for as a farmore exceeding + eternal weight of story I hope to be a ble to write you again, My wounds one doing well. Copy this it send it to your sorrow stricken brothers Ruth: to comfort than . : Write mere few words in regard to the welfore of all . Lod all might blefs you all : I make you joyful in the midst of all your hibulations. Write to tohn Prown Sefferson Go, ba, come of Capt John aris Jour affectionate Husband, + Father. John nown Ale 2 1459 Lestendog Nov 2 Iway sentenced to be hanged on 2 Love so not guerre on my account, I am till quite cheerful. To bligt you all Jour Ever 1 Onoun Property of West Virginia State Archives